

## Qatar reports 1 wounded by Saudi patrol

DOHA (AP) — A Saudi Arabian patrol fired at Qatari citizens in a border incident earlier this year and one Qatari was wounded, Qatar said Wednesday. It said it delayed announcing the incident until now while it sought an explanation from Saudi authorities, but none was received. It was one of several "armed incidents" at the border from March until October this year, Qatar's Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah Ben Khalifa Al Thani told his cabinet colleagues at Wednesday's regular meeting, the official Qatar News Agency reported. The report indicated the border agreement reached by the two countries in December 1992 after intensive mediation was not holding. That agreement came after a shootout in September of that year in which two people were killed. The two sides disagreed about the nationality of the victims. The dispute is one of several that riddle relations among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states. Qatar also is locked in a dispute with Bahrain over territorial waters. Qatar took that dispute to the International Court in the Hague.

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## Gaza clashes claim 1 more boy

GAZA CITY (AP) — A 14-year-old boy shot by Palestinian police dispersing rioting Muslim worshippers earlier this month died of his wounds Wednesday, hospital officials said. The death of Alaa Halabi from Gaza's Beach refugee camp brought to 15 the number of Palestinians killed in the Nov. 18 clashes between police and worshippers. More than 200 were wounded.

## Lebanon gives Palestinians ultimatum

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government is to tell Palestinians in refugee camps in the country to hand over all their weapons or see the Lebanese army enter the camps, a senior government official said on Wednesday. He told reporters the decision was taken at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday night following fighting last week between Palestinian factions in 'Ain Al Hilweh camp near the southern port of Sidon.

## Rafsanjani denies OIC boycott report

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has denied a report he would boycott an Islamic summit in December because it is to be in Morocco "which now has low-level ties with Israel," Iran's official news agency said. IRNA news agency said a statement issued by Mr. Rafsanjani's office on Tuesday denied the report and said: "No decision has been made in this connection."

## Rabbani team in Iran for talks

TEHRAN (AFP) — An eight-strong delegation representing Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani arrived here early Wednesday to attend peace talks with rival factions, an Afghan official said. Mohammad Naegehi, a representative of the Shiite Muslim group Hezb-e-Wahdat, said a five-member delegation representing Mr. Rabbani's rival Abdul Rashid Dostam, a former communist regime general, was also on its way to Iran for the talks sponsored by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

## Fateh man gets nine life terms

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank (AFP) — A military court on Wednesday sentenced a Fateh member to nine life terms for killing a Palestinian who worked in the Israeli police and seven other suspected collaborators with Israel. The former policeman, who quit the Israeli service when the uprising began in 1987, was shot dead by Jamal Ahmad Lubadah in July at Tulkarem in the occupied West Bank. Fateh has officially laid down arms under the September 1993 autonomy accord, but some renegade elements refused to support the deal.

## Cairo denies Israeli charge

CAIRO (AFP) — The security services on Wednesday denied an Israeli report that Palestinian militants were smuggling explosives from Egypt for bomb attacks on Jews. "This report is completely unfounded," Lieutenant Tamer Al Saghir, an interior ministry spokesman, said. "No arms or explosives trafficking operations have been recorded between Egypt and the Palestinian territories or between Egypt and Israel," the officer insisted. The Jerusalem Post newspaper, quoting a senior Israeli security official, said on Nov. 1 that explosives used by militants to carry out suicide attacks had been smuggled in from Egypt.

## Crown Prince returns, voices hope for realistic European role

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday expressed hope that Jordan would reach an agreement with the European Union (EU) in the coming few weeks on partnership in fulfilling the requirements of peace in the Middle East.

The two sides will hold a dialogue that would reassess Jordanian-European cooperation in the era of peace, Prince Hassan said in a statement upon his return to Amman from a European tour.

He said Jordanian-European cooperation under the mid-1970s protocol did not cover matters related to the requirements of the peace era which has just started.

Referring to Jordan's efforts to help the Palestinian people, the Crown Prince said the Kingdom had actively and successfully participated in a conference by donor nations which promised aid to the Palestinian people.

He congratulated the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in the self-rule area of

Palestine for securing European aid.

The donors met in Brussels where the Belgian foreign minister said that Europeans believed that the situation in Gaza and the West Bank needed an urgent European response.

Referring to the planned European summit in Essen on Dec. 8, the Crown Prince said Jordan hopes that it would result in more than mere expressions of "sympathy" or "concern" over the situation in the occupied Arab territories or the situation in Bosnia.

"We hope that the European summit would result in a more comprehensive declaration than previous ones, ushering in a serious and practical initiative on the part of Europe in settling these issues," he said.

"Since the Venice Declaration of 1980, the Europeans did not take the desired initiatives to settle regional issues but now this initiative is much desired and wanted," Prince Hassan added.

Referring to the peace

treaty between Jordan and Israel, the Crown Prince said that it was a regional affair with the United States playing a key role. "But I would like to say that this regional affair requires understanding and support on the part of the European nations. There can be no more excuse for Europe not to contribute towards peace under the pretext that the United States was assuming that role," said the Crown Prince, adding that Europe was close to the region in all aspects and had a basic role in bridging the gap represented in the Mediterranean Sea separating Europe from the Arab World.

Prince Hassan said that Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharqi was present at the Brussels meeting and this presence helped to improve Syrian-European relations and led to the lifting of a European arms sales ban on Damascus.

"We welcome this development and hope that further participation on the part of Syria and Lebanon would take place in further

conferences and meetings in order to better explain the Arab and regional issues to the Arab and European nations," Prince Hassan said.

The last stop in Prince Hassan's tour was Vienna, where he delivered an address to the European Religious International Conference organised by the Institute for Human Sciences.

The Crown Prince told the meeting that there was real optimism for peace in the Middle East for the first time in decades (see page 7 for the Crown Prince's full address).

Upon his return to Amman, the Crown Prince, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, was met by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and other Royal family members and government ministers and senior officials.

The Crown Prince was sworn in as Regent shortly after his return home Wednesday, in the presence of His Royal

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is Highness Prince Mohammad and Acting Prime Minister Thousan Hindawi and other officials (Petra photo)

## Jordan diplomatic team due in Tel Aviv, demarcation starts Dec. 6

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Jordanian-Israeli border in December.

Maj.-Gen. Tahsin Shurdum, head of the Jordanian side to the Border and Security Committee with Israel, said the delineation process will start on Dec. 6 and will be conducted by three teams on each side. The Jordanian team will be drawn from the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre.

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Maj.-Gen. Shurdum said the discussions this week also covered the demarcation of borders and security measures at Al Gharr and Al Baqoura areas in the north where Israelis continue to use Jordanian land. Part of the territory there will be leased to Israel from 25 years.

The visits of the delegations come amid continuing discussions between Jordanian and Israeli experts on implementing the peace treaty the two countries signed on Oct. 26.

After two days of talks in Aqaba, officials from both sides announced Wednesday that teams were set up to start demarcating the

border by the end of December.

A committee made up of armed forces officers is in charge supervising Israeli withdrawal from the borders and removal of landmines and barbed wires.

However, Maj.-Gen. Shurdum said, the removal of the barriers along the borders would take some time and further discussions were needed in this context.

The Jordanian delegation leaving for Tel Aviv today on a two-day visit will be headed by Omar Rifai, head of a special bureau at the Foreign Ministry, who has attended most of the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations since June.

The government has chosen Marwan Muasher.

spokesman of the Jordanian peace negotiating team, as Jordan's first ambassador to Israel. Officials said the related official papers had been sent for Israeli approval, which is not expected to take more than a few days.

The officials could not or would not say whether Jordan had received similar papers from Israel nominating

(Continued on page 12)

## Jordan seeking \$25b from U.S. in 10 years to revamp Armed Forces, improve economy

By Ghadeer Taber  
Special to the Jordan Times

that about 250,000 Palestinians still live in those camps.

The Jordanian request was also based on the need to offset losses to the treasury from the expected trade liberalisation and economic reform as well as financing regional projects and meeting the commitments of servicing a \$6.8 billion foreign debt.

His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, is depending on the United States to supply Jordan with major portion of its military needs to support the Kingdom's decision to make peace with Israel.

Almost half of the sought-for \$2.5 billion annual aid would be used to modernise Jordan's cash-strapped Armed Forces and security apparatus so it can protect the Kingdom's 980 kilometres of borders and carry out its "regional responsibilities."

According to official sources, the Kingdom has calculated its economic requirements based on plans to improve the living standards of its people, nearly 30 per cent of whom live under the poverty line, including a large number of Palestinians still living in 11 refugee camps in the country (U.N. figures estimate

amount of support equipment and ammunition.

"We will work with Jordan to meet your legitimate defence requirements and to give you the security you deserve," President Clinton told a joint session of the Jordanian Parliament on Oct. 26, the day of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace accord. He did not offer specifics except for a \$75 million grant to encourage overseas investment in the Kingdom.

During the president's one-day visit to the Kingdom, Jordan requested immediate infusion of money, U.S. assistance to help get debt write-offs or reduction from other countries and a complete security package, according to a senior official.

Washington is writing off \$702 million of official debt to the United States. The write off, spread over three years, started with \$220 million for 1994.

Jordan owes the U.S. nearly \$300 million more in debts that are not eligible for write-off under American parametres.

Washington has urged its allies to offer debt relief to Jordan. The U.S. has met with "some success," but

the bulk is still pending because different donor countries have different laws concerning debt, for giveness, informed sources said.

"Jordan alone cannot shoulder the bill of peace," Information Minister Jawad Anani told the Jordan Times in an interview. "They (the international community) should know that the bill is very heavy."

"We expect more than what President Clinton indicated in his speech (to Parliament)," said Dr. Anani referring to the president's pledge of the \$75 million grant. "We are entitled to a commitment of aid like the one given to Egypt and Israel after they signed the Camp David accords of 1979; we are entitled to ask for this assistance not only from the United States but from other donors including the European Community and Japan," he added.

Although diplomatic sources in Amman would not confirm that their countries had received a "specific list" from Jordan as to its economic and military needs, one diplo-

(Continued on page 12)

## Donors give \$125m to PNA

BRUSSELS (AP) — Foreign donors responded Wednesday to a plea from Palestine National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat by granting \$125 million in immediate aid to create jobs and cover the spending gap in the Palestinian territories.

The money will help the Palestinians balance their budget and contribute to U.N. job creation programmes such as building roads and sewage systems.

It is part of the \$700 million promised by international donors for this year. So far, only \$140 million of that money had arrived.

"I'll go back to Gaza with relief and renewed hope," said Nabil Shaath, chief Palestinian negotiator at the two-day donors' conference.

The Palestinians agreed with donors to set up an international committee in Gaza to monitor and coordinate distribution of the aid. That could clear the way for more donations from nations who have held off sending promised funds for fear the money might go astray.

The Brussels conference was attended by officials from the United States, the 12-nation European Union, Japan, Arab States and other countries.

Dr. Shaath and Israeli representative Uri Savir also held talks with business people from Israel and the United States on setting up an industrial zone for private companies in Gaza.

Of the aid cleared Wednesday, \$23 million will go on public works projects which aim to create 5,000 jobs in the next few weeks.

A further \$102 million will go to making up the gap between spending and tax revenue in the Palestinian territories through March 1995.

Norwegian Deputy Fore-

(Continued on page 12)

## PLO: Israel must quit W. Bank before vote

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A leading Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official on Wednesday rejected an idea floated by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Israeli troops remain in West Bank population centres during planned Palestinian elections.

It set elections for last July, but the vote was delayed over differences between the two sides on the nature and size of the Palestinian body to be elected and security arrangements in the West Bank.

Israeli opposition leaders say an army redeployment in the West Bank will invite a wave of attacks on Jewish settlers allowed to remain there under the interim accord.

"This contradicts the (Israel-PLO) agreement and is impossible. It is incompatible with free elections," Faisal Al Husseini told Israel Radio.

During a rare tour of the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron on Tuesday, Mr. Rabin said: "We will have to check to what extent elections can be held without the army necessarily having to get out of the city centres — though this is subject to negotiations."

The Israeli army and health are the last of five spheres Israel has agreed to hand over to the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The last of the five spheres of authority will be transferred to the Palestinians first in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho. The PLO took over Gaza and Jericho in May.

The peace accord included plans to expand self-rule to the rest of the West Bank, with an Israeli troop with

## Israeli woman soldier killed in Afula attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian man killed an Israeli woman soldier in northern Israel Wednesday by striking her in the forehead with an axe, police said.

Soldier Liat Gabai, evacuated by helicopter to Ramat Hasharon hospital in the coastal city of Haifa, died at 1500 GMT, said Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai, deputy director of the hospital.

Police said the woman was killed in a clash between the security forces. He said checkpoints from the occupied territories had to let pass cars driven by settlers and East Jerusalem Arabs, all bearing the same yellow plates as cars from inside Israel.

"Such cars are used by people who oppose the peace," Mr. Rabin said, a day after he announced that it was time to start creating a more formal separation between the occupied territories and Israel.

Police said the soldier was waiting at the bus station in Afula around 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) when the attacker struck her in the head with an axe several times.

She collapsed and was rushed to a hospital.

The attacker was caught several minutes later.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin condemned the attack

but said violence would not stop peace negotiations.

"We shall continue on the way to peace, and fight those who oppose it," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

Mr. Rabin, pointing out that the man had been jailed at least twice by Israel in the past, said stopping such lone attackers was especially troublesome for the security forces. He said checkpoints from the occupied territories had to let pass cars driven by settlers and East Jerusalem Arabs, all bearing the same yellow plates as cars from inside Israel.

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## Romanian envoy lauds ties with Jordan

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Romanian Ambassador Anton Pascale said Thursday that Romania welcomes the recent progress in the peace process adding that this will encourage expansion of ties between Jordan and other countries.

During a press conference held Tuesday at the Romanian embassy to mark 76 years since the completion of the Romanian unitary nation state, Mr. Pascale praised His Majesty King Hussein's distinguished role in the peace process.

"I believe that Jordan had accomplished an excellent peace process, which will reflect positively on its economy in the near future" the ambassador said.

According to Mr. Pascale, the latest developments would boost trade between the two countries and "Romania became more interested in investing in industrial projects and improving infrastructure."

"Romania plays a stabilizing role in this region by strengthening good relations with all its countries, and when we add its economic strategic potential, we can say, in modesty, that Romania is called on to play a crucial role," said Mr. Pascale.

He further added that after the December 1989 revolution very important delegations and missions had shuttled between Romania and Jordan.

Since 1990, he said, more and more Romanian companies have been doing business with Jordan, and, at the

same time, new commercial opportunities are offered by the Romanian market to Jordan exports.

The most recent economic developments include the participation, last April, of Abdul Hadi Majali, head of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Jordanian Parliament, at the Crans-Montana international conference held in Bucharest, and the negotiation, in August 1994, of a new trade agreement initiated in Amman.

He also referred to contracts signed between Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. and the Romanian company Romelectro, for the project of high voltage electrical lines connecting Zarqa to Saabha.

"Romania is ready to implement this project and other projects that will help connect countries in the region together, if it is asked, especially that Romanian engineers have built a big part of the oil refinery," he said.

In addition, Mr. Pascale said, in February, a contract was signed between Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. and the Romanian Company Industrial Export S.A. to carry out a "turn key" project in Aqaba for oil storage tanks with a capacity of 200,000 cubic metres.

Mr. Pascale also said that the positive economical, political and social changes that both the Romanian and Jordanian countries have experienced had created the favourable framework for the diversification and betterment of bilateral relations.

However, Mr. Pascale called on the Jordanian people not to rush things and wait, "because it will take time," Mr. Pascale said that he



Romanian Ambassador Anton Pascale (left), Cultural and Press Attaché George Bogdan (centre) and Commercial Attaché Mihai Burghel Tuesday hold a press conference at the Romanian embassy on the occasion of Romania's national day (photo by Rana Husseini)

before things start changing to the way the Jordanian people are hoping."

"I am saying this based on my experience with my country. When we switched to democracy, people thought that things will change overnight, but that was not the case," he said.

According to Mr. Pascale, in 1993, Romania overcame a bias that affected its image by being admitted as a full member of the Council of Europe, thus concluding the association agreement with the European Union (EU). This year, Romania was the first country to sign the partnership for peace with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

"We intend to maintain a rapid pace with Europe and develop good relations with the United States, Middle East, Far East and other dynamic areas of the world," said the ambassador.

Mr. Pascale said that he

was optimistic about future investments between Jordan and Romania, adding that there are tremendous investment opportunities for Jordanian companies in the near future in the pharmaceutical industry, foodstuff industry, farming and banking insurance.

"More than 2,000 Jordanian businessmen travelled to Romania and about 300 Romanians came to Jordan during the current year in order to negotiate new contracts," said Mr. Pascale.

"Even though it is too early to appreciate all the economic impact of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, it is obvious that new, favourable climate is created which will attract more investors," he added.

On a final note, the Romanian ambassador said: "We pay our respects to those who worked hard and sacrificed their lives for the benefit of the country."

## Saudis stress Islamic values on AIDS control

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia has urged health education on the "principles of Islam" to counter the growing threats from AIDS.

Speaking Tuesday at the opening of an international conference on AIDS in Riyadh, Deputy Governor

Prince Sattam Ben Abdul Aziz, called on educational institutions and the media to help protect young Saudis from what he said were "destructive attempts to spoil our society."

He said that "one of the great sources of relief stems

from teachings of Islam, which like other divine religions, prohibits illegal sexual activities or drug abuse."

As the three-day conference got underway, a health ministry official reported that more than 90 Saudis are infected with the deadly virus.

The kingdom, like other conservative Gulf states, rarely reports cases of AIDS.

## Egypt's high society in rumpus on holiday village

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's high society is up in arms at plans to build new chalets in a luxury Mediterranean holiday village, accusing the government of favouritism towards ministers who have homes on the site.

In contrast to the low-key protests by tens of thousands left homeless by torrential rains in southern Egypt earlier this month, the well-to-do have gone straight to the top.

In a letter to President Hosni Mubarak, they accused developers of wanting to "massacre" the Marina complex, 100 kilometres west of the port city of Alexandria.

Some 80 chalets are due to be built to recoup the \$8 million spent by Egypt on laying the village's infrastructure.

Each villa costs more than \$100,000, a fortune for most Egyptians.

According to the U.N. Programme for Development, the average annual salary is \$610 and more than a fifth of the population of 60 million live below the poverty line.

The 4.5 square kilometres

area was "flooding our rights and massacring the green areas."

"But he is also showing favoritism because he hasn't touched the garden of the villa belonging to Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kamal Al Shazli.

Marina's Mayor Milad Hanna is convinced the row "has led to dissensions within the government" and believes Mr. Suleiman, who has met with residents, could be "forced to resign."

The holiday village, built on an old Roman port from where Egyptian wine and corn was exported to Europe, is almost deserted apart from two months of the year when 10,000 people escape the stifling heat to relax by the Mediterranean.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki, most of his ministers and Parliamentary Speaker Fathi Sour as well as businessmen, film stars and Gulf emirs have holiday homes in the complex.

"We had hardly got over the floods in Upper Egypt when we received a new shock. This time it is a man-made catastrophe, the massacre of the green areas of Marina," the letter said.

Resident Fahmi Moemen complained that by trying to build the new chalets Housing Minister Ibrahim Suleiman

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UAE court delays hearing of ex-AMF official

ABU DHABI (R) — A court in Abu Dhabi has postponed a hearing for a former Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) official convicted of embezzlement in the United Arab Emirates to give him time to find a lawyer, a local newspaper said on Wednesday. The Arabic-language Al Khaleej said the hearing was postponed until Dec. 27 after Mahdi Bahr Al Ulum asked the court on Tuesday for a delay to find a lawyer. The court also allowed him a copy of the case file. Al Khaleej had reported Bahr Al Ulum faces a possible 75 years in jail after being extradited from Lebanon. The court will consider his objection to his conviction, the paper said.

### Greek defence minister to visit Israel

ATHENS (AP) — Defence Minister Gerasimos Arsenis will visit Israel for three days starting Dec. 1 to discuss military cooperation between the two countries. It will be the first ever visit by a Greek defence minister to the Jewish state, the ministry said Tuesday. Mr. Arsenis will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other officials. The announcement said his talks will focus on increased cooperation between the Greek and Israeli defence industries.

### Palestinian prefers Israeli jail to arranged marriage

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian teenager gave himself up to the Israeli authorities as would-be Muslim fundamentalist killer rather than go through with a marriage arranged by his parents, police said. The 18-year-old from the Bethlehem region went to a nearby Jewish quarter and asked an Israeli how to find the police station. Jerusalem police spokesman Shumei Ben Ruby said. He showed a knife and claimed to be a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas. The Israeli immediately called the police, Mr. Ben Ruby added. The Palestinian was arrested but confessed he simply refused to wed a girl he did not like.

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## Jordan's AIDS cases rise to 116

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The number of people in Jordan with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) now stands at 116, of which 34 are non-Jordanian, Health Minister Aref Batayneh announced Wednesday.

On Nov. 8 the ministry had announced that 110 people were infected with the AIDS virus. At that time the ministry said that 30 Jordanians were among those infected.

The release of the current figures came on the eve of the World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, called for annually by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which said in a statement that the observance of the day was part of the global effort to meet the challenge of AIDS, an epidemic that continues to worsen in all regions of the world.

Dr. Batayneh said Jordan was not considered a country facing a genuine AIDS problem according to WHO standards, and the number of AIDS cases was still very limited.

Referring to ministry safeguards to contain the spread of the disease, Dr. Batayneh said it was cooperating with



Aref Batayneh

various institutions and the media in teaching the public ways of protecting themselves against this killer disease.

He also said that blood transfusions in Jordan are conducted under strict control to stem any spread of AIDS.

Noting that the ministry's efforts were focusing on schoolchildren, the minister said that teachers are playing a very important role in spreading awareness especially as students could travel to study abroad, where most

AIDS cases are contracted. To help prevent the spread of AIDS in Jordan, all non-Jordanian workers coming to the Kingdom have to undergo AIDS tests, especially those wishing to stay in the country for more than a year.

In the course of a national campaign to spread awareness, the health ministry has formed special teams which tour the country to provide information about AIDS prevention methods and distribute pamphlets and booklets to households and schools.

In its statement, WHO said World AIDS Day highlights AIDS prevention and control activities already under way and forges new channels of communication about AIDS.

It said World AIDS Day is now an annual event in most countries, helping to build a lasting worldwide effort to stop AIDS.

In his statement Wednesday, the health minister quoted WHO figures as estimating the number of AIDS cases worldwide at 13 million.

He said that WHO believes the figure would rise to 30 or 40 million by the year 2000, noting that two-thirds of patients were found to be youths under 25 years of age.

## Possibility of snow in weather forecast

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology Wednesday forecast more rain and possibly snow for this weekend, while the Ministry of Public Works and Housing said it is prepared to deal with road emergencies.

The Kingdom will continue to be affected by a cold atmospheric low pressure centered over southern Syria causing temperatures to drop noticeably and bringing scattered showers to most regions, said a department spokesman Wednesday afternoon.

Rainfall, he said, will intensify Thursday evening and Friday and Saturday. He said there could be a chance of snow in regions 1,200 metres high. Temperatures would not rise above 9°C in the coming two days and are expected to drop to lows of 3°C and 4°C at night.

He warned of poor visibility due to fog, especially in mountainous regions.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Works said its operation rooms were on full alert to deal with any emergencies.

A ministry statement Wednesday said that the recent heavy rains blocked several culverts with dirt and rocks disrupting traffic on the main roads. Ministry workers have now cleared most culverts, and all roads were reported in good condition.

Referring to the Irbid-Jerash road which was severely hit by the storms, the ministry said that the road was blocked by fallen trees and rocks, especially near the Zarqa stream where several landslides occurred.

It said that some of the side roads and culverts are still being cleared, but otherwise the highway itself suffered no damage. According to engineers at the operations room at the King Talal Dam, by noon Wednesday water in the dam, the largest in Jordan, had exceeded the 50 per cent capacity mark.

AN OPENING IN SALT: Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al-Hassan Wednesday opens an art exhibition at the Salt Cultural Centre marking Balqa Governorate's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. The exhibition, to last three days, is organised by the Balqa Chapter of the Arab Youth Forum. (Petra photo)

It includes exhibits, drawings, embroidery, ceramics, natural and artificial flowers, Arab calligraphy, Koranic verses, as well as photos of the King and the Royal Family. Present were Balqa Governor Eid Naseef, Chairman of the Arab Youth Forum Nayeef Al-Hiyari, and several Balqa Chapter of the Arab Youth Forum officials. (Petra photo)

## Students boycott university classes

Administration seeks to maintain academic standards

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than 1,000 students Wednesday demonstrated in front of the president's office at the University of Jordan urging a continuation of the boycott of classes, because, according to the demonstrators, negotiations between the students union and university officials over grade regulations reached a deadlock on Monday.

"Who will defend the 94 per cent of students who succeed and compete to score high grades?" he asked.

He added that each university sets its own standards. "We have our own standards and we are not obliged to follow the same rules as other universities."

The demonstrators want that regulation abolished.

Student union leader Majdi Smadi organised a march Wednesday morning which started from the Faculty of Law and toured all the university faculties before ending in front of the president's office, according to the demonstrators.

University President Fawzi Gharabeh said the university administration will not tolerate truancy, adding that university regulations regarding class absences will be enforced on any student who fails to report to class.

Dr. Gharabeh said when representatives of the students union approached the administration more than three weeks ago demanding to have the 60 per cent grade regulation changed, the university conducted a study which revealed that less than

60 per cent of the students had failed their classes last year. He said it also showed that only 16 per cent of the 23,000 students currently attending classes at the university had scored grades of less than 60 per cent.

"This is a very small percentage, and we cannot amend university regulations to serve only this small number," Dr. Gharabeh told the Jordan Times.

"We have our own standards and we are not obliged to follow the same rules as other universities."

"Our university standards are high compared to other universities, and it is our responsibility to maintain these standards — we cannot compromise in the academic matter," Dr. Gharabeh said.

Dr. Gharabeh said the university administration had formed a committee to discuss the issue with the students union. He said the administration contacted the students union to convene a meeting between the committee and the union on Tuesday. "But they did not show up, and today we called them again for another meeting, but they did not come; instead they staged this demonstration," Dr. Gharabeh said.

Mr. Smadi, president of the student union, said that the union did not meet with the committee because they wanted a final answer to their demands before formally



Students Wednesday demonstrate in front of the office of the president at the University of Jordan (photo by Rana Hussein)

final list ... but I believe only 40 per cent failed to attend classes," Dr. Khrisat said.

Meanwhile, a third-year student denounced the way the student union handled the issue.

"They did not give us a chance to voice our opinion about the issue. They are only promoting their opinion," Abdul Hadi Majali said.

Another student also expressed disapproval with the way the situation was handled by the union.

"I am for changing the 60 grade law, but I think there are more appropriate ways to tackle the issue, and the demonstrators should respect the university administration instead of chanting impolite slogans that offend the university president and the administration," said Ala Abu Ruman, a third-year education major.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Government compensates farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is compensating Jordan Valley farmers for losses they incurred to their tomato crops caused by the recent flooding in the valley, acting Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi Wednesday announced in Parliament. The government had set up a special committee to examine the extend of flood damage and assess the compensation that should be allotted to the farmers, Mr. Hindawi said. Replying to queries raised by several deputies concerning problems facing farmers, compensation and the country's supply policy, Mr. Hindawi said the government remains committed to subsidising basic commodities including sugar, rice, flour and dried milk, which are sold to limited income groups.

### Meeting to host German, Jordanian scholars

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan Monday will

host a meeting of Jordanians who have benefitted from a German academic exchange service (DAAD). The two-day meeting will be held under the patronage of Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saeed. A German embassy statement said that University President Fawzi Gharabeh and DAAD President Theodor Berchem, as well as German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers and Dr. Saoud will be the main speakers at the meeting which will be held at the university's Faculty of Engineering and Technology auditorium. The statement said that at least seven scholars from Germany and Jordan will address the gathering tackling the following topics: security and cooperation in the near east; the political situation in Jordan after the peace treaty; Euro-Arab development cooperation and the Middle East peace process; the environment dimensions; water problems in Jordan and their solution; and infectious diseases.

## Nabil and Hisham to break new barriers

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "No peace, no peace," chants Nabil Sawalha, his words echoed by a cast of supporting actors in the courtyard behind the Ahlan Theatre. With fists raised in the air they continue in English. "No normalisation, no normalisation." As the angry voices grow louder, Hisham Yaneess quickly places a finger over his lips signalling them to keep it down. "Not so loud. People will think it's a demonstration," he whispers.

Despite the slogans blatantly denouncing peace, the aim of the exercise is certainly a far cry from combatting normalisation. In fact, it is just the opposite.

Known best in Amman for crushing stereotypes, looking fun at political taboos and slaughtering sacred cows — Jordanian comedians Nabil and Hisham are about to break new barriers: physical and linguistic.

The new direction of the play is likely to raise a few eyebrows and ruffle some feathers. A Salam Ya Salam is Tel Aviv-bound.

Since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel,

opposition in the Kingdom is vowed to fight all forms of normalisation with cultural exchanges ranking number one on their hit list.

And the Jordanian Writers' Union has come out with similar statements condemning literary contact.

But Nabil and Hisham are undeterred. Time and again they have dismissed their hardline colleagues for making a living from misery and conflict. For the comedy duo, the overwhelming success of A Salam Ya Salam, their playful parody of peace, is evidence that the tide has been turning and that the public is ready for neighbourly relations. "Jordanians are laughing — and that is a healthy sign," says Hisham.

But will the thunders of laughter that have filled the Ahlan Theatre in Jabat Amman for nearly a year since the play first opened be heard in Israel?

Over rounds of tea after a mid-day rehearsal, the cast considers how their still faceless audience will receive the play. Referring to the portrayal of Jews, who range from the militant biblical Joshua — more a modern day Baruch Goldstein — to the tight-fisted characterisation of

been suggested that the Arabic production would carry more weight, not least because it is the first time a Jordanian theatre group will take to the Israeli stage. Other reasons favouring the original script include the automatic inclusion of the Arabic-speaking Oriental Jewish community as well as the rich use of puns.

And besides, the creators of A Salam Ya Salam get to test the waters in Amman, since starting Dec. 3 the English language version will be featured twice a week at the Ahlan Theatre.

Sparked by a request from Amman's Diplomatic Club, whose non-Arabic speaking members have been eager to laugh along with the rest of the country,

With the date of their opening in Tel Aviv still up in the air, Nabil and Hisham still have time to decide whether to give it a go in English or to stick with what they know best. Casts and director alike say the main challenge in English is to preserve the spirit of the show.

Coaching the English-language version scheduled to open in a week's time, Nadeem Sawalha, accomplished actor and brother of Nabil explains. "The show is an impression. The main thing is not to kill the spontaneity. The definition will come later."

That is no small task.

When asked off stage if any of the casts have ever acted in English, Hisham, who never misses an opportunity to highlight the humour of any situation, shoots back, "The question is, have any of them ever spoken English?"

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### INTERNAL AUDITOR

International company has opening for an internal auditor. Applicants should have a university degree (Masters level preferred) in accounting with a minimum of five years' audit experience. Job requirements include the ability to apply principles of control, analysis and monitoring of internal / external financial administration including budgeting, reporting, taxation, and revenue relating to various departments and divisions. Good understanding of modern administrative practices and equipment essential. Applicants should have strong English and Arabic language skills (verbal and written). Competitive salary based on experience.

For interview, please contact:

Ghada Taha

Tel. 661836 Fax 605277

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

★ Film entitled "Aladdin" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

### BAZAARS

★ Christmas bazaar at the Orthodox Club, Abdoun on Thursday and Friday (10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.).

★ Charity bazaar at the Armenian Relief Society (handmade goods, embroidery, food, toys, Christmas cards) all day long on Thursday and Friday (Tel. 775-268).

### DIALOGUE

★ Dialogue on the artists works of Adnan Al Sharif with the participation of Mohammad Al Ameri and Kifah Habib (with a slide show) at the Phoenix Gallery for

Culture and Art on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

### CHARITY BAZAAR

★ Charity bazaar (includes books, tapes, clothes, and accessories) at Mu'tah Uni-versity.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 699348).

★ Exhibition of Pakistani art entitled "Colours and Forms" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Muhyi Khalifa at the Housing Bank Gal-lery.

★ Motor show '95 at the International Motor Exhibition, airport highway.

## FOR ART LOVERS EXHIBITION — SALE

Contemporary art works by Arab and foreign artists, drawings, paintings, watercolours, prints and sculptures. Also a collection of Jordanian pots, jars and kalims. Sale runs from Friday 2nd until Friday 9th December 1994, daily 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

At Mona Saudi's studio - Abdoun Village  
Directions: take road opposite gate of American embassy. Road turns to right at end. Take 1st turn left. 2nd house on right between pine trees.

Tel: 829700

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Bani Hamida Project cordially invites you to

### "DECEMBER"

Celebrate Christmas while touring various showcases of new Bani Hamida fall colors

At the Bani Hamida House

Saturday, November 26th - Monday, December 5th

8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

For information please call 658696/7

جامعة اليرموك

## Nepal premier sworn in; vows to defend democracy, investment

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's new Communist prime minister named a hardliner and his own brother to key cabinet posts Wednesday as he vowed to defend the kingdom's fledgling multiparty democracy and encourage foreign investment.

Man Mohan Adhikary, 74, was sworn in as the Himalayan nation's first Communist prime minister by his former foe, King Birendra, at the royal palace in the capital Kathmandu.

Mr. Adhikary spent 17 years in jail in a lifelong fight against absolute monarchy and was imprisoned by King Birendra's late father before a ban on political parties was lifted in 1990. The new prime minister now supports constitutional monarchy.

He quickly appointed a 15-member cabinet of close advisers, naming Communist Party General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal as deputy prime minister, foreign minister and defence minister.

Mr. Nepal belonged to a hardline Communist faction,

the Communist Party of Nepal Marxist-Leninist, which in 1991 merged with a more moderate movement led by Mr. Adhikary to create the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) Party.

Mr. Adhikary's UML party won a plurality in general elections on Nov. 15 and will need the support of rival parties to win a parliamentary vote of confidence which must be held within 30 days of his becoming prime minister.

At its first cabinet meeting, the government appealed to people to "stay calm and maintain law and order," Mr. Nepal told reporters. The cabinet asked the king to summon the new parliament for Dec. 14.

In a message read to the Nepali people after taking the oath of office, the new prime minister said the Communists would continue to accept foreign aid and capital, and try to use the money more effectively.

"We will use the foreign capital and encourage (foreigners) to invest," he said.

In his message to Nepalis,

Mr. Adhikary said he would try to make industrialists and the private sector more "effective," while focusing on rural development.

He pledged to toe a neutral line in foreign policy and to rewrite a three-decade-old treaty with India which he claims gives New Delhi unfair influence over Nepal's affairs.

Mr. Adhikary said Communist rule would not spell the end of Nepal's experiment with multiparty democracy.

"We have prepared the election manifesto of our party on the basis of the people's multiparty democracy plan," he said. "On the basis of this plan, communism will work in Nepal."

Mr. Adhikary made quick adjustments to power. He went to meet the king at the palace Tuesday in an old Toyota and departed in a black Mercedes-Benz limousine. He had trimmed his long shaggy beard into a goatee.

King Birendra of Nepal (right) officiates at the swearing in ceremony of newly elected Prime Minister Manohar Mohan Adhikari at the Narayanthi Royal Palace. Mr. Adhikari be-

came the first Communist prime minister in Nepal's political history after elections ended in a hung parliament (AFP photo)

## Norway aims to secure position in Europe after snubbing EU

OSLO (AFP) — Norway's government must now steer a post-EU referendum path between limiting the effects of commercial isolation while responding to an electorate that has rejected closer ties with Europe, analysts said Wednesday.

Norwegians voted Monday by a 52.2 to 47.8 per cent margin to reject membership of the European Union (EU).

Labour Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, a strong EU advocate, must spend the next months safeguarding her country's position in Europe after the defeat, as Norway's 4.3 million inhabitants have no wish to be completely cut off from the EU's 370 million.

Meanwhile the battle for victory in scheduled 1997 general elections has begun in earnest, with the country's anti-EU parties seeing their

position strengthened by the outcome of the referendum.

One of Ms. Brundtland's first tasks is to ensure the country's European Economic Area (EEA) agreement is not weakened.

"The work of looking after

the country's best interests by saving as much of the EEA agreement as possible begins now," Ms. Brundtland said.

Norway fears that the framework of the EEA agreement, which gives Norway access to the EU through free movement of labour and goods and services, will now be weakened.

The EU has indicated that it intends to reorganise and diminish the EEA and European Free-Trade Association (EFTA) due to the expansion of the EU, raising fears here that the country would be left with no voice in European decision-making policy.

"First and foremost we

want to see how the EEA agreement can be secured," Fisheries Minister Jan Henry Olsen said.

"At the same time, we want to try to prevent Norwegian fish exports from meeting tariff barriers in the old EFTA countries of Sweden, Finland and Austria."

Fish is Norway's second-largest export next to oil. In 1993, Norway's fish exports totalled 16.6 billion kroner (\$2.44 billion), primarily to the EU. Sweden and Finland are two of Norway's largest fish importers.

"I hope that the fishing industry does not move out of Norway, but I don't feel very secure," said the pro-EU minister.

Other industries that threatened to leave Norway if the country rejected membership will now consider their options in the coming weeks.

Pele to promote help campaign for Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Pele made a lot of friends over the years. Now he is asking them to help. "We ask our business friends in Japan, the United States and other first world countries to come invest in Rio," soccer's greatest player said in an interview Tuesday with the Rio daily *Jornal Do Brasil*.

Pele, now 54 and himself a wealthy businessman, said he felt it his duty to help Rio snap out of a miasma of violence and decay. Things are so bad the army is patrolling the streets to fight crime.

"The time has come for the turnaround," Pele said. "That's where we come in with a great movement in favour of Rio. All must help the city grow."

Pele recalled how people kidded him in 1969 when he scored his 100th goal and dedicated it to the poor. "No one took it seriously, (and) now everything is worse," he said. "We must cooperate. Rio has worldwide repercussion. What works here can infect the whole country."

Pele led Brazil to three World Cup titles in 1958, 1962 and 1970. After a stint with the New York Cosmos, he retired in 1977.

Golf originated in China 1,000 years ago — paper

BELJING (R) — A Chinese professor says the modern game of golf originated in China about 1,000 years ago, refined out of an ancient game involving hitting a ball with a club, the official People's Daily newspaper said Wednesday.

"Norway fears that the framework of the EEA agreement, which gives Norway access to the EU through free movement of labour and goods and services, will now be weakened."

"I hope that the fishing industry does not move out of Norway, but I don't feel very secure," said the pro-EU minister.

Other industries that threatened to leave Norway if the country rejected membership will now consider their options in the coming weeks.

Moscow mothers invent daddies for illegitimate babies

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of Moscow mothers invent names for the fathers of their newborn children to make the babies' certificates conform to city norms, Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper said.

The MQM accuses Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of discriminating against Mohajirs or Muslims who have migrated from India. Mohajirs account for the majority of Karachi's 10 million people and most support the MQM.

Ms. Bhutto's government, meanwhile, says the MQM is a terrorist organization that uses violence to advance its cause.

To further complicate matters, the MQM has split into two factions that often fight each other when not battling the security forces.

The turmoil has disrupted industry in Pakistan's business capital and has scared away foreign investors at a time when money is flowing into many Asian countries.

The security forces have been accused of widespread abuses, including unlawful

## Cambodian forces, Khmer Rouge defectors launch attack on mountain

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (AFP) — Government forces assisted by Khmer Rouge defectors were advancing on guerrilla bases in Cambodia's northwest Siem Reap province, replying to rebel raids in which scores of people were abducted, 500 homes burned down and 40,000 people displaced, provincial officials said.

The government troops, backed by artillery, were focussing on Khmer Rouge bases in the mountainous area of Phnom Koulen, deputy Governor Kang Heang said Tuesday.

"This attack was decided after (First Prime Minister) Prince Norodom Ranariddh came to Siem Reap for the (recent) water festival," Kang Heang said.

"He talked to Khmer Rouge defectors and encouraged them to join us in the battle," he added.

The prince spoke to some 150 Khmer Rouge defectors who were previously based around the Phnom Koulen area. The guerrillas have since joined in what is estimated to be a 1,000-strong government force making a three-pronged advance on

the mountain.

Other government forces were moving in behind the mountain to try and cut Khmer Rouge supply lines.

The mountain is prized because its fertile soil is ideal for the cultivation of fruits and vegetables and because of its cool climate, unspoilt scenery and splendid waterfalls, which would make an ideal attraction for tourists visiting the nearby world famous temples of Angkor Wat, the deputy governor said.

"There are around 100 to 150 Khmer Rouge soldiers there, I think it is possible for us to take the place before the end of the dry season because we are more numerous and they are far from their Anlong Veng base," he said.

The guerrillas would probably use their usual tactic and flee when under pressure, he said.

Phnom Koulen is located some 15 kilometres (nine miles) northwest of the spectacular temple of Banteay Srei Temple, which is often inaccessible to tourists due to insecurity and poor road conditions.

## Suspect in Dahmer slaying identified

PORTRAGE, Wisconsin (R) — Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, who mutilated and cannibalized his victims, believing he was the devil, may have been murdered by a violent fellow inmate who thought himself to be the son of God, news reports said.

Officials named Christopher Scarver, a 25-year-old black inmate, as the chief suspect in Mr. Dahmer's beating death in a prison toilet and the Milwaukee Journal reported that Mr. Scarver had a long history of mental problems, including a belief that he was the son of God.

Mr. Scarver, convicted of a 1992 execution-style slaying in Milwaukee, was the other inmate working on the same janitorial detail with Mr. Dahmer, 34, and fellow-

inmate Jesse Anderson, 37, who was also beaten in attack.

Mr. Scarver was found with blood-splattered clothes.

Prison officials maintained that there was no reason to believe race was a motive in the attack against Mr. Dahmer and Mr. Anderson, both of whom are white, which took place Monday at the Columbia Correctional Institution.

Many of Mr. Dahmer's 17 victims were black and fellow-inmate Mr. Anderson — who remained in critical condition Tuesday falsely accused blacks of the 1992 stabbing murder of his wife for which he was later convicted.

Mr. Scarver had spent some time in the prison's

section for mentally ill inmates and he took anti-psychotic drugs, but was not viewed as anti-social or violent, an unnamed prison official told the Milwaukee Journal.

Scarver is serving a life

term and Columbia county District Attorney Mark Bennett said there was no rush to charge him. "We're not under any pressure or deadline to get a murderer off the streets," Mr. Bennett said.

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# World News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1-2, 1994 5



Chechen government soldiers from the president's troops ride atop an APC along the central street of Grozny, the capital of Chechenya (AFP photo)

## Meeting row mars Ghali mission to Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali began a peace mission to Bosnia Wednesday but his talks with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic were put at risk by a row over where to meet.

Mr. Karadzic demanded a meeting on Serb-held territory while U.N. sides insisted the two men should talk at Sarajevo Airport which is controlled by U.N. peacekeepers.

U.N. sources said Dr. Ghali, seeking a ceasefire across Bosnia after 32 months of ethnic war, was reluctant to have a meeting on Serb soil while Mr. Karadzic's army held 500 U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) soldiers hostage.

The Bosnian Serb Army detained British, Dutch, French and Canadian peacekeepers as a shield against NATO air attack during its attack on the U.N. safe haven of Bihać in northwest Bosnia.

Lifting the Serb blockade of mainly Muslim Bihać was high on Dr. Ghali's priorities when he arrived in Sarajevo where the public mood towards the United Nations has been soured by the debacle in the enclave.

He will also seek guarantees, mainly from the Serbs, that UNPROFOR can carry out its core mission of getting aid to Bosnia's civilian population.

"I am an optimist," he told reporters at the airport as he left his aircraft without wearing a regulation flight jacket as protection against Sarajevo's snipers.

"I hope we will create a new momentum in favour of a ceasefire in Bihać."

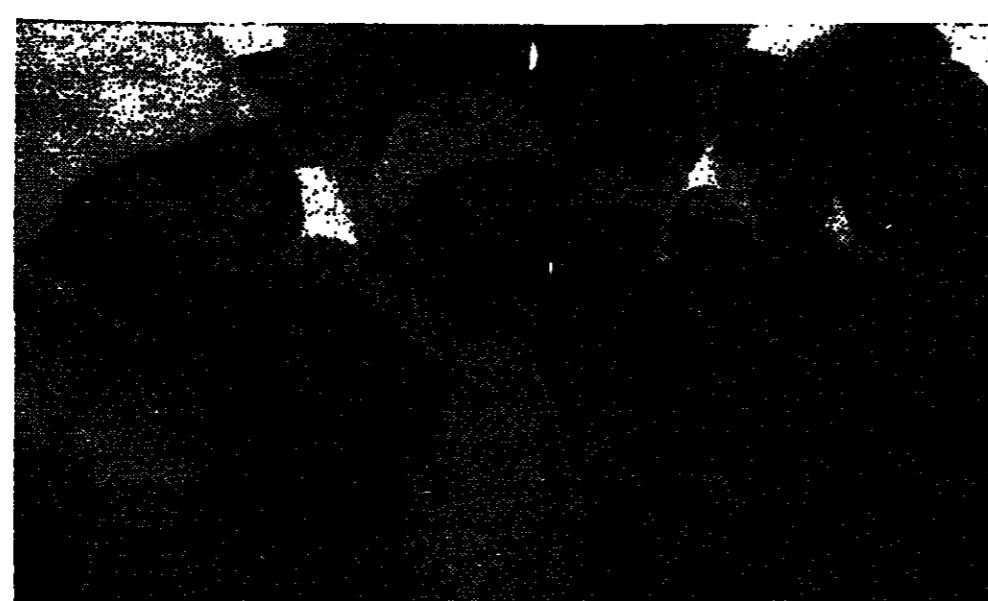
He was driven off at once to meet Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic at the shell-scarred presidency building in central Sarajevo while U.N. officials tried to negotiate a compromise with the Serbs.

Dr. Ghali drove into the city along its notorious "sniper alley" where a lone protester earlier carried a banner reading "U.N. genocide in Bosnia."

The mood among a knot of Sarajevoans, convinced the U.N. and NATO betrayed Muslims during the Bihać fighting, was hostile outside the presidency.

A member of the group, 44-year-old Huso Zadic, said: "I don't think he should be allowed to enter the presidency. While he's bullet-hitting here, people are dying in Bihać."

Another man who identified himself only by his first name, Muso, added:



U.N. Bosnian Force Commander, General Sir Michael Rose (right), welcomes Charles Thomas (centre), the American member of the five-nation contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina upon their arrival at Sarajevo's

"They're lying to us every single moment. They haven't respected a single Security Council resolution."

Muslims assumed that the U.N. designation of Bihać as a safe area guaranteed that NATO warplanes and UNPROFOR would "protect" it against the Serbs.

But international efforts to save the town collapsed over the weekend in a welter of recriminations between the two international organisations, divided about the level of force to be used, and Western governments which have never been able to formulate a coherent policy towards the conflict.

Yasushi Akashi, the secretary-general's special representative in former Yugoslavia and one of the men most blamed by Muslims for their plight, denied that Bihać was a failure for the United Nations.

"We are doing the job given to us by the Security Council as best we can," he said as he accompanied Dr. Ghali.

The secretary-general arrived with the backing of a demand from the Security Council to both Muslim and Serb forces to cooperate with his mission.

Bosnian government 5th Corps troops defending Bihać sent a message of defiance from the town of 70,000 people, saying they would "rather eat grass and leaves" than depend on the United Nations.

"We no longer expect anything from UNPROFOR," 5th Corps spokesman Sandi Zulic said by telephone.

Serbs are still shelling the town's defences after over-

running a third of the safe area but have not tried to advance deeper.

They are thought to be leaving the capture of Bihać to rebel Muslims still fighting with government troops for the town of Velika Kladusa in the north of the Bihać enclave.

The United Nations said a British U.N. convoy of 43 men, who were among those detained, arrived in Sarajevo safely Wednesday morning after being released.

The Serb demonstration of military strength in Bihać appeared to have convinced international peacemakers to revive diplomatic efforts to end the war by offering the Serbs fresh concessions.

The United States spoke of a possible new international conference if the warring sides could be brought to agree.

Bosnian Serbs — who hold 70 per cent of Bosnia — rejected a major power peace proposal during the summer which would have divided the country, giving half to them and half to a federation of Muslims and Croats.

Meanwhile U.S. Senator Robert Dole, who infuriated the British by accusing them of doing "absolutely nothing" to end the conflict in Bosnia, faced an icy reception from Prime Minister John Major in London Wednesday.

Sen. Dole, slated to become Senate leader in January following the Republican election landslide earlier this month, was to meet Mr. Major late Wednesday after talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Defence

Ministers.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) is supposed to be there to protect the civilians and they're not doing it," Sen. Dole said before coming to Europe.

only take place once a year in the autumn.

Mr. Major won the top job in British politics after a challenge to Margaret Thatcher's leadership toppled the iron lady in 1990.

The Conservatives, wallowing 25 points behind Labour in opinion polls and suffering severe internal ructions over Britain's links with Europe, are putting their trust in tax cuts to win over voters before the next election, due by mid-1997.

But Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke warned Wednesday any tax cuts would have to be based on sound economic principles if they were to carry conviction with voters cynical about the Conservatives after their unbroken 15-year hold on power.

On Monday, Mr. Major expelled eight members of parliament from the Conservative party over tax cuts. Leadership challenges can

only take place once a year in the autumn.

British newspapers were unanimous that this strategy was aimed to boost Conservative popularity by providing room for heavy cuts in income tax before the election.

"Tax cuts: It's jam tomorrow," was the headline in the Daily Express, a leading pro-Conservative newspaper.

However, Mr. Clarke told a news conference: "The political credit for tax cuts, if and when come when people see they are credible."

"If they believed that we were making tax cuts irresponsibly, it would cause not just economic damage, but we would not get any credit either," he said.

On Monday, Mr. Major produced a "steady-as-she-goes" annual budget on taxation combined with radical plans

to curb public spending and bring the budget deficit near to zero in 1997-98.

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On Monday, Mr. Major expelled eight members of parliament from the Conservative party over tax cuts. Leadership challenges can

## Chechen leader offers talks; new raid on Grozny reported

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev Wednesday offered to negotiate with Moscow to find a solution to the conflict in his breakaway Russian Caucasus republic, Interfax news agency reported.

The report came as Chechen government sources told AFP in the republic's capital that two warplanes had raided the Grozny military airport.

An AFP reporter said thick smoke could be seen rising from the airfield but it was not immediately possible to determine the extent of the damage.

Mr. Dudayev was quoted by Interfax as saying he would start negotiations with Russian authorities "as soon as it (Moscow) proposes."

Mr. Dudayev's move came only hours before the expiration of an ultimatum from Russian President Boris Yeltsin who threatened to impose a state of emergency and send troops to Chechenya unless the republic submitted to Russian constitutional rule.

On Tuesday unidentified warplanes attacked the presidential palace in Grozny as Mr. Dudayev was giving a press conference rejecting Mr. Yeltsin's ultimatum.

The Russian Defence Ministry said Wednesday it had sent a plane to repatriate Russians taken prisoner by Chechen government forces during fighting for control of the capital Grozny.

He identified them as Russian soldiers fighting beside the Moscow-backed opposition trying to topple him.

Mr. Dudayev Wednesday refused to meet with several Russian deputies who offered to head to the Chechen capital Grozny.

The mother of one of the prisoners, Svetlana Anatolyevna Agapova, an assis-

tant to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, said that once the hostages were repatriated, Moscow would identify them to determine whether they were members of the Russian Armed Forces, as authorities in the breakaway republic maintain.

Russia has denied repeated accusations by Chechen authorities that Moscow troops have fought alongside Chechen opposition forces.

Mr. Agapova added that she did not believe the prisoners' lives were in danger. The plane was sent to the Russian Republic of Northern Osetia that borders Chechenya.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who unilaterally declared the republic's independence from Russia in 1991, earlier this week sent Moscow a list of 11 fighters captured during clashes for control of the capital Grozny.

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tant to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, said that once the hostages were repatriated, Moscow would identify them to determine whether they were members of the Russian Armed Forces, as authorities in the breakaway republic maintain.

Meantime Chechen opposition fighters Wednesday suspended military operations after an ultimatum from President Boris Yeltsin, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

Russian Martagov, spokesman for the opposition provincial council, told TASS the body would take a final decision on a ceasefire later Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin, trying to end bitter fighting between Chechen leaders and the opposition forces, Tuesday threatened to declare a state of emergency in the mountainous southern region if the two sides did not halt the bloodshed within 48 hours.

But Chechen officials have already rejected the ultimatum, saying Russia would face another Afghanistan if it tried to send in troops.

Reuter correspondent Lawrence Sheets said the capital Grozny emptied rapidly Wednesday as the deadline for possible Russian military intervention approached.

"We're scared, we're getting out of here. I'm taking them to the countryside," said Zena Abdulatova as she loaded her four young chil-

dren into a waiting car.

Thick black smoke from fuel tanks set ablaze during bombing raids on the city's airport Tuesday still lingered over the town, which lies on the northern edge of the snow-capped Caucasian mountain range.

About a thousand people, many of them armed with rifles and grenade launchers, rallied around the presidential palace in Grozny to show support for besieged leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Ivan Rybkin, head of Russia's lower house of parliament, told Interfax News Agency that those combatants who laid down their arms should be amnestied.

"We are very much relying on the fact that those who took part in the bloodshed will stop and that the clans will reach an agreement among themselves," he said.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin canceled a trip to Siberia Wednesday because the worsening situation in Chechenya, a government spokesman said.

The daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta said Yeltsin's personal security had been stepped up because security officials feared Chechen fighters could attack the president's motorcade.

Moscow telephone operators refused to put through calls to Chechenya Wednesday, saying they had received strict instructions to cut off contact with the region.

## India calls for dialogue with Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India recently proposed holding talks with rival Pakistan to reduce bilateral tensions, but Islamabad turned down the offer, Indian Foreign Secretary Kris Srinivasan said here Wednesday.

A message that New Delhi was willing to go "more than half-way" to resume a dialogue on bilateral problems was conveyed to Islamabad last week by Indian Cabinet Minister Arjun Singh, Mrs. Srinivasan told reporters.

Ties between the twin countries, born at the close of Britain's colonial rule over India in 1947, have always been strained.

Hindu-dominated India and Muslim Pakistan have fought three wars since then, two of them over Kashmir, which has been split by the two countries.

Mutual animosity has increased since a Muslim secessionist revolt broke out in the Indian zone of Kashmir five years ago.

Mr. Srinivasan said Pakistan's negative response to India's proposal on talks would not discourage New Delhi.

He added that officials here regretted the "unnecessarily sterile atmosphere" in relations with Pakistan and would wait patiently to meet at the negotiating table.

On a recent trip to Pakistan, Mr. Srinivasan met and invited counterpart Najimuddin Sheikh to visit India.

"We are looking forward to a fruitful and constructive dialogue," Mr. Srinivasan said.

Mr. Srinivasan said he had suggested that Islamabad consider supporting a one-on-one meeting between Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and P.V. Narasimha Rao of India at a South Asian summit due here in April.

Mr. Rao has publicly stated twice in the past month that he backed holding a dialogue with Pakistan to resolve bilateral conflicts.

The last official meeting took place in January, when Mr. Srinivasan's predecessor, J.N. Dixit, travelled to Pakistan, but made little progress in resolving the Kashmir issue.

India accuses Pakistan of waging a "proxy war" by arming and training Muslim guerrillas in Kashmir.

Pakistan denies direct involvement, but says it lends moral support to the campaign, which Islamabad calls a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

At least 11 foreign mercenaries and six others were killed in separate overnight gunbattles in strife-torn Kashmir, officials said here Wednesday.

## Berlusconi tries to avert strike

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi met leaders of Italy's three big trade unions Wednesday in a last-ditch bid to avert an eight-hour general strike scheduled for Friday against government plans to save money on pensions.

As the meeting got underway, several hundred people demonstrated outside Mr. Berlusconi's office to protest against the government's plans to save \$5 billion on pensions next year.

The strike would be the latest and largest in a series of stoppages and protests

against the 1995 budget, which unions say will hit the poorest hardest.

Mr. Berlusconi, whose government was rocked last week when he was placed under investigation for alleged graft, won the backing of his fractious cabinet Tuesday for continued government. He denies any wrongdoing.

The prime minister was expected to offer some concessions to soften the planned cuts in a bid to ward off the first all-day national strike in 12 years.

But the three unions, whose members number 11 million, appeared set to demand a full climbdown.

Unions want the radical reform plans to be split away from the 1995 budget, which parliament must pass by the end of the year. They say that will give parliament more time to consider the measures which include a major cut in future pensions and a block on early retirement benefits next year.

More than one million people demonstrated in Rome earlier this month in the largest street protest since World War II.

(the EU) and if their domestic and economic situations permit that," Mr. Kohl said.

The invitation had been in doubt for several weeks despite Mr. Kohl's earlier statement that prospective Eastern members should attend some EU summits.

Mr. Kohl denied he had reconsidered the invitation, telling the news conference it was issued after discussion by EU foreign ministers Monday.

Diplomats earlier cautioned that the invitation did not mean the EU enlargement process was being speeded up, given the enormous financial and legal complexity of admitting four former Communist states.



## Our children deserve better literature

By Mohammad Mashariqa

Having finished reading a story entitled *The Brothers* by a Swedish author and translated into Arabic by Dr. Walid Seif, Catherine, a little girl, said that she was deeply impressed by the contents.

The 10-year-old girl said that the book provided answers to many questions that were on her little mind all the time, related to the issue of life after death.

The book provided ideas that are not found in Arabic tales and had enriched her knowledge a great deal, said Catherine.

Indeed, the little girl's answer raised the question of literary writings for children in the Arab World. It is to be admitted that children's literature is often supplied by writers who are not specialised in children's literature but rather by men of letters who tried but failed to become novelists and narrators and have chosen to write for children something which normally escapes criticism and security on serious evaluation by specialists.

Muna Zreiqat, who currently supervises a pilot project for the "Arab child book" in Stockholm, Sweden, asked: "How can a writer who had missed a happy childhood life write for children?"

"Childhood in the Arab countries is shameful

indeed," said Mrs. Zreiqat who related numerous examples of children turning adults at an early age because they are often cared for by a widow or

### AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

because they come from large families where children's needs are often neglected or improperly responded to.

Mrs. Zreiqat cited her own life as an example, explaining that she herself was forced to do the housework at the early age of seven.

Childhood in Mrs. Zreiqat's view, is a mixture of trouble-making and innocent child behaviour.

"But these are taboo in the Arab World. We bring up our children expecting from them blind obedience to adults who practice dictatorial powers on children. Hence we do not expect someone who himself underwent such oppression as a child to produce something positive for the children when he grows up," Mrs. Zreiqat said.

She said there is no ready-made recipe for literary writing for children, noting that such subject cannot be tackled without preparation but rather ample and thorough and specialised academic study.

"Some universities have already started awarding

post-graduate degrees for child literary writing but unfortunately in the Arab World students of education and psychology study mere theories that are far from reality and have nothing to do with childhood," Mrs. Zreiqat said.

In examining successful world children's books we find that they are so popular among children because they are illustrated with colour sketches and pictures which help to convey the message of the story to the child.

For religious or historic reasons sketching and drawing in Arab World Books have not been developed and often one finds the features of a person's face blurred. Expressions on the face of characters are important elements which reflect the sentiments and feelings and therefore they contribute to the story's success.

Mrs. Zreiqat does not agree with the idea that the world children's literature does not suit Arab children because of differences in social and cultural environment. "We believe in the existence of a universal child — that is we believe that children have so much in common which have priority over economic, ethnic, social and other considerations."

"All children share the need and desire for affection, tenderness and giving; and they all need to see their personalities respected and their individual ideas considered," Mrs. Zreiqat said.

She noted that each age group of children has its own needs, and is impressed by certain types of drawings and sketches and by certain terms and language.

She insisted that even at the childhood level children's books should consecrate and teach classical Arabic so that children's language skills can be developed from the early age.

Mrs. Zreiqat blamed the common and colloquial Egyptian dialect used in theatre and the movies for the damage done to the Arabic language.

"Had the Egyptian plays and movies been presented in classical Arabic since the 1930s, the Arab children and adults watching them would all be using classical Arabic," Mrs. Zreiqat said, noting that the Egyptian culture and arts have had their overwhelming influence on all Arab countries.

"Language is an integral part of the national identity and therefore due care ought to be given to it," she stressed.

In Sweden a country of eight million people, a language academy controls and monitors the language as well as all translations and entries from



Some of the translated children's books on display in Sweden



Muna Zreiqat

other languages," Mrs. Zreiqat noted.

She suggested that since their early childhood, boys and girls should be taught to read literary texts in classical Arabic, a practice which would soon be transmitted to the children's everyday language.

"The responsibility lies with those in charge of imparting culture and language to the children in the Arab countries. These officials hold positions in information and cultural departments who more often than not have no real respect for the book and who regrettably are not concerned about child literature," Mrs. Zreiqat said.

Mrs. Zreiqat, a Jordanian living in Sweden, has founded a non profit centre there where she has been translating a great number of children's books into Arabic in cooperation with other expatriate Jordanian writers.

## SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

### New game in town: Shuffling press cards

When Akher Khabar is forced to stop the presses, a financially strapped Sawt Al Shaab is looking for a bail-out, and Al Aswag is seeking to expand its circulation westward, powerful individuals as well as power centres such as banks and industries smell opportunity. What better way is there to acquire influence in the media than to own a newspaper?

According to Editor-in-Chief Bassim Sakijha, the troubles at Akher Khabar, which went out of circulation more than a month ago having been in the market as a tabloid evening daily for several months before, were executive. "We had differences with the paper's chairman, Asaad Abdul Rahman," Sakijha said without elaborating. "But we have established a new company, excluding some of the previous shareholders, and we are going to reprint within two weeks," he promised.

Sakijha said his newspaper has been able to raise new capital of around JD 700,000, primarily through the Amman Bank for Investments, run by Maher Shukri and Hani Qaqish. He said that judging from the previous experience, he believes the new capital will suffice to restart the paper particularly since the copies are printed at the Jordan Press Foundation (Al Ra'i and Jordan Times) saving the company the expense of purchasing a printing press.

Sakijha said, he expects the colour-illustrated evening daily, with a circulation he put at about 15,000, will increase its readership. "We are on computer system which allows us to use a modern to print in the West Bank via an office in Ramallah," he said in talking about expansion plans.

Asked to comment, Dr. Abdul Rahman, who until its liquidation was board chairman of the Akher Khabar public corporation (which is a different entity from the Akher Khabar Foundation, a private venture owned by Sakijha), said: "I would have preferred not to respond to Mr. Sakijha's untruthful statement, simply because he was not even an eligible shareholder, but since he insists on opening old wounds, I feel I must speak out."

"Yes there were differences," Dr. Abdul Rahman confirmed, "not only with me as the chairman, but with the majority of the members of the board and the majority of the shareholders who supported me. It was these shareholders who elected us to get back JD 390,000 of their money illegally confiscated by the Amman Bank for Investment." According to Dr. Abdul Rahman, "some of the founders of the would-be company felt they were unwittingly lured into a questionable scheme," and when that was discovered, they "sought a free and amiable liquidation of the company so that everyone would get his money back plus some bank interest." He added that "it was thanks to the positive efforts exerted by Minister of Industry Rima Khalaf, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Mohammad Said Nabulsi, as well as the positive attitude of Dr. Shukri (which led to the bank's decision to return our money) that we were successful."

He said, "the majority of the board under my leadership managed to get back what was unjustly taken of our company's money and consequently fulfilled the board's promise to the majority of the shareholders. All of these facts," said Dr. Abdul Rahman, "were included in the report submitted by

the majority of the members of the board in front of 84 per cent of the total number of shareholders at an extraordinary meeting called on Nov. 21." He said that the meeting was recorded on video cassette and added that "should there be any new lies about this company, I shall then resort to full disclosure supported with the necessary official documents."

Dr. Abdul Rahman concluded by saying, "as to Mr. Sakijha's efforts to republish his newspaper, I cannot but wish him the best."

Across Press Street, Chairman of the Board of Al Aswag daily Sufian Sartawi said that at his newspaper there was some share trading activity within the company proper, but talk of large investments by private businesspersons was at this stage just that — talk. Sartawi who is also general manager of Jordan-Kuwait Bank admitted, though, that "the picture is still unclear." He said he expects that any possible new purchases of shares from outside the newspaper will be settled very soon. To the question of the likelihood of the paper's expansion, he said: "Of course, and we will make more investments," such as the purchase of a new press, which would free the company from printing at the Sawt Al Shaab press. Sartawi also confirmed that the paper plans to start distribution in the West Bank as well.

In the midst of the country's economic restructuring programme designed by International Monetary Fund experts who frown upon state-owned enterprises, Sawt Al Shaab Chairman Abdul Hay Majali confirmed that an offer has been made to buy the 64 per cent government-share in the newspaper. But, happy with the new management of the paper and confident that both it and the paper's profitable high-tech printing press service can "slowly work their way to success," Majali said that he has called a shareholders meeting today (Thursday) at 5:00 p.m. at which he intends to put the sale of the newspaper to a vote. According to Majali the problem with the enterprise is that the government annually changes the composition of the board of directors. He said he wrote to the Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh on the need to increase the paper's capital from JD 2 million to JD 3.5 million, "but the government wants to sell the company." Majali, who is the brother of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Lower House Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali, said he hopes the shareholders will prefer not to sell. He said he is optimistic about the company's future because with extra capital, his newspaper can have a lucrative printing service that accommodates the needs of publications such as Al Bilad, Al Sabeel, Al Abed, Al Jamahir and Al Aswag, plus a JD 2 million government contract to produce the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) telephone directory for 1995.



oting dealings with the Zionist enemy in various fields based on the national popular view." But when he goes on to say that the Jordan Press Association (JPA) "has issued a clear statement against normalising relations with the Zionist enemy in conformity with the stand of our people against everything that is Zionist" the JPA, without commenting, simply referred us to its Aug. 17, 1994 statement, the clarity of which is disputed to date. That statement said the JPA respects all laws of the boycott of Israel until the total liberation of Arab lands. But it also said that JPA members should cover news and attend conferences and meetings (presumably involving Israel or Israelis) that are open and declared in advance.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ANOTHER STATEMENT:** Meanwhile, JPA President Suleiman Qudah issued a statement to members informing them that the Ministry of Culture would contribute to the financial obstacle to getting journalists' works published by annually allocating three of its own publications to support the literary and intellectual work of JPA members. That could be a solution to the situation brought up by one JPA member, who was not authorised to speak on behalf of the association, at a JPA meeting with the Qatari Minister of Information and Culture who had just concluded a week-long visit to the Kingdom. Just as the meeting was about to come to a successful close, and to the sudden discomfiture of Qudah, one JPA member stood and appealed to the visiting minister for assistance (presumably financial) for the cash-strapped association. Although Qudah stepped in to rescue the hour and turn a certain embarrassment into a "never you mind him" ending, it may be that striking up this deal with the Ministry of Culture here would work to deter any further such supplications.

\* \* \* \* \*

Not interested in oriental souvenirs, unless they are particular to Jordan and cannot be found west of the Jordan River, the couple, who admitted to Mohammad that they were initially somewhat wary of how they would be received in Jordan, said they were delighted with their "bargain" trip. Arranged by Al Afifi Tours, one of Jordan's oldest travel agencies which used to operate a bus service from Tel Aviv to Amman and Irbid prior to 1948, the five-day, four-night package including round-trip bus transportation (Israel-Jordan) and 4 nights accommodation with breakfast at the Forte Grand Hotel came to but \$270 per person, according to the couple.

Fears dissipated, the couple, who did bring along one of those handy electric heating coils to make instant coffee, felt free to complain about the food at a Jerash restaurant (name was lost on them), but said their gastronomic experience at Amman's Reema Al Bawadi Restaurant saved the trip. The tour guide said the couple confided in him that if the food was to be anything like the meal they ate in Jerash, they were prepared to cancel their trip.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## The IBM and the Mac — episode 3

By Jean-Claude Elias

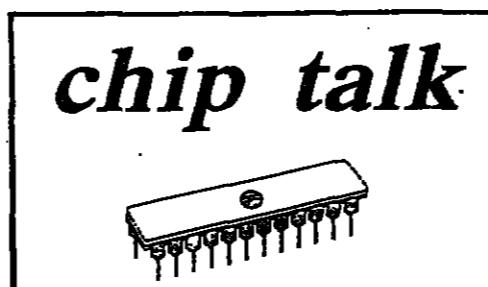
The comparison between the IBM-compatible and the Apple Macintosh computers continues unabated. It is interesting to note that most of the time, the criticism goes from Mac fanatics to IBM lovers and not the other way round. The latter usually claim that the first have developed a superiority complex. The reason, probably, is the following: While the Mac is produced by just one company, Apple, tens (or is it now hundreds?) of manufacturers make IBM-compatible PCs. Apple users therefore feel they have to defend themselves more aggressively. The Mac market share, world-wide, is 20 per cent approximately.

The launching earlier this year of the Power Mac that lets operators run both Microsoft DOS, i.e. the IBM system, and Apple operating systems, has not made much progress in uniting the contenders. Intended to allow computer users to benefit from both designs, it still runs the DOS in an "emulation mode" that is to say in a simulated way. In plain English, this means that it does it very slowly, much slower than an original IBM-compatible hardware would.

Browsing through recent British and American specialised publications, one can notice that the "Mac versus IBM" criticism focuses on the assessment that the IBM has, by design, very poor sound and music capabilities and that its Windows operating system is but a pale, reduced, crippled copy of the Mac's original concept. The "IBM versus Mac" point is that the Macintosh high price tag is not always justified and one would be stuck with just one supplier who will dictate his pricing conditions for future options and upgrades.

In the meantime and while users, specialists and manufacturers discuss the issue, a host of medium size manufacturers are selling several additions and upgrades for the IBM-compatible machine, in view of bringing it closer, technically speaking, to the Mac. Naturally these additions mainly aim at giving the IBM better sound possibilities and faster Windows, while swelling their manufacturers' profit.

For appetizers, one can choose from a wide palette of "Windows Accelerators." These are small electronic cards one can insert in the empty slots of a PC



cabinet. They usually replace the standard display adaptor (screen controller circuit) that comes with the machine. Once fitted with such a card, the PC can run Windows much faster. The drawings and all the software that works in graphic mode (all Windows-based programmes) benefit tremendously from such a boost. While the Mac was originally designed as a graphic system, the IBM started as a text-based computer, hence its relative handicap in running graphic applications.

The second set of add-ons for the IBM is the very popular sound card. From Sound Blaster to Sound Galaxy and Turtle Beach (note how exotic the names), put one in your compatible PC and watch it play realistic music. Recently a dozen companies have joined the above mentioned three in designing sound cards. Playing games that sing, talk, or composing multi-track instrumental music with symphonic complexity is not the monopoly of the Mac anymore.

Here again, some will say that add-ons that make up for congenital weaknesses will never be like the real, original thoroughbred. Others will say that, on the contrary, they are very practical and allow for greater flexibility. That's democracy in the information technology world.

Whatever the technical arguments in favour or against one system, one thing is certain: Mac users think it's the absolute machine and IBM users swear they would never trade their computer for a Mac. That should be enough indication that, notwithstanding the differences, both systems allow us to do the same work and reach the same goal, even though the scenery along the way of the average driving speed may slightly vary.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### STRANGE BUT TRUE

★ During his normal life, man breathes 470,000,000 times, moves his eyelids 330,000,000 times and constricts his fingers 250,000,000 times.

★ ★ ★

★ An Indian whistled continuously for 45 hours and twenty minutes.

★ ★ ★

★ In England, a law was promulgated in 1865 limiting the speed of vehicles run by steam to 4 mph.

★ ★ ★

★ The White ant queen continues to live until it reaches the age of 50.

★ ★ ★

★ An Australian typist could type the numbers beginning from 1 to 370,000 on 14,500 papers with a month.

★ ★ ★

★ An Indian succeeded in learning by heart the first 31,811 numbers included in the logarithmic table.

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

At the Hotel

— At which hotel are you going to stay?  
Fee ayy fondok tanwil iqama?

— I haven't decided yet. Lam oqarrir battal'aan

— Which is the best hotel you recommend?  
Ayy fondok toosi behi?

— I think the Summit is the best.

Atakid anna fondok Summit howal-afdal.

— How long do you intend to stay?  
Kam al-moddha allati tanwi iqamataha?

— Your passport, please. Jawaz safarek, min fadlek.

— Here you are. Ha howa

— Room No. 60. This the key. You're welcome in Jordan.

Ghorfa rakam sit'teen. Haza howal-miftah. Marhaban beka fil-ordon.

— Thank you very much. Shukran jazeelan.

— What about the luggage?  
Wamaza behkosos al-amte'a?

— The lift-operator will take it up.

Sawfa ya'khazha aamil al-mis'ad ela a'la.

— Is there a telephone in the room?  
Hal yoojad hatif fil-ghorfa.

— It's well equipped with everything.

Innaha muzawwada bekoli shayy.

### TIME FOR FUN

★ THE HOTEL MANAGER was greatly surprised when John Rockfeller, the famous American millionaire, asked him to reserve the cheapest room in the hotel for him.

— But your son, sir, rents the most luxurious rooms when he stays here, said the manager in apparent gloominess.

— My son, has a wealthy father, but I have not, answered the millionaire in a broad, quiet smile.

★ ★ ★

★ VICTOR HUGO, one of the most prominent figures in French literature, was once invited to have

## A pain in the arts

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Bill Gates, founder of the computer software giant, Microsoft, has a vision of the future, of a computer community, the Net, the open electronic system that covers the world. On-line information services consist of powerful computers with vast banks of data that can be tapped into by anyone with a home computer, a telephone line and a "modem." Modems are little boxes that allow a computer to send and receive signals down the line. Gates also has a vision of the future of art.

Gates's newest company is to make many of the world's greatest works of art available on the information highway. He proposes to take away the need for visiting museums, to make the labels (the tiny labels next to paintings) all-talking, all-moving.

And at the same time to refer the user to other material. To do this, Gates has set up a private company, Continuum, and has bought the licensing rights to hundreds of thousands of images, from a number of world-famous museums including the National Gallery in London, the Barnes Collection in America and the State Russian Museum, as well as from scores of individual photographers, historical archives and private collections.

The images will be available to all those with CD-Rom drives, schools, universities and colleges,

newspapers, magazines and individuals. The way millions of people look at art will be changed. The student writing an essay on Matisse will also be told that Continuum has a photograph of the artist, and information about the period in which he lived.

The staff at Continuum have already joined forces with an American audio-guide producer to devise a portable CD-Rom guide of all of a museum's exhibits. Every visitor would be able to hire a Walkman-like machine with a CD-Rom and a pair of headphones on it. Unlike normal cassette guides it is non-sequential and can store hundreds of hours of sound. These guides can be switched on instantly to describe any exhibit, with the descriptions in many cases enhanced by sound effects and music.

It remains to be seen whether digitised images would encourage or discourage young people from visiting art galleries.

Continuum envisages that the demand that will come from CD-Rom, then on-line publishing, then home and business computers, is only the first strand of their business. The second strand is product development, producing themed topics for reference and entertainment. There will, for example, be an Africa database, with paintings, sculpture, photographs and historical material, all digitised. There might also be an electronic travel guide since you could include far more pictures than in a conventional book.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 1

7:33 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

9:10 Tequila And Bonetti

Brooklyn And The Beast

Bonetti is taken into custody after he falls victim to a conspiracy which aims at digging up his past records.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Hearst And Davies Affair

Starring: Robert Mitchum & Virginia Madsen

The story of a wealthy businessman who develops a strong love affair with a charming dancer. When the wheel of fortune throws him to get shackled in the chains of bankruptcy and debt, love rises to be his only saviour.

12:00 The Investigator

Cop Connery

A gang of smugglers is pursued by the police after being charged with stealing valuable antiquities.

Friday, Dec. 2

7:30 Hollywood Stuntmakers

8:00 African Skies

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

A man along with his wife and little son is rescued after his house flooded.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blanche

Blanche leaves to Montreal where she decides to pursue her higher studies.

11:35 Never The Twain

After the mother refuses him as a suitable husband for her daughter, Oliver is left with no other choice but to kidnap his bride.

Saturday, Dec. 3

7:30 Harry And The Hendersons

8:00 Combating AIDS

8:30 Quantum Leap

Killing Time

Sam travels back in time to assume the character of a killer who holds a mother and her daughter hostage.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

The Return Of Preston Giles

A man who runs a big publishing house is arrested and taken to prison after being charged with murder.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Fire Storm

Starring: Levan Burton & Clay Bough

A considerable loss in lives and property occurs after a big fire breaks out in Oakland.

12:00 Major Dad

Major Dad decides to marry off a lady who causes considerable chaos in the navy headquarters.

Sunday, Dec. 4

7:30 McHale's Navy

8:00 The Phantom Horsemen

A boy flees the British soldiers who have imprisoned his mother and decides to hide in the wood where he gains many allies.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Galactica

Space Gropers

The people of Galactica face a lot of trouble on Earth after their space farms get completely annihilated.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Scarlett

Scarlett decides to leave to London where her entire life tumbles over in an atmosphere of moral corruption and destructive wickedness.

11:50 International Ballet

Monday, Dec. 5

7:30 Black Beauty

8:00 Boogies Diner

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:15 Shades Of L.A.

The Wrong Man

Detective Michael, aided by an apparition, saves a man from capital punishment after he is mistakenly apprehended.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Headhunters

Tuesday, Dec. 6

7:30 The F.B.I.: The Untold Stories

8:00 World Echo

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Cracking The Code

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Elliott

Daniel accepts a scholarship to study painting in Paris. Eve, his new wife, decides to accompany him.

11:10 Fly By Night

Point Of No Return

The Slick Air leaps in to protect a French prince from conspirators planning to overthrow his regime.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

7:30 Coach

8:00 Life In The Freezer

8:30 Quantum Leap

(Cont. of Tuesday's episode)

9:10 Law And Order

Wedded Bliss

The police investigates the murder of a Mexican couple who work at a clothes factory.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Savage Land

Matt aided by both his son and nephew leaps in to protect a man whose wife is arrested by a crooked trooper

## Mush minus blush — Kuwait tunes in to romance

By William MacLean  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Bad Boy wants forgiveness from Nabeela. Ahmad wishes Cupcake a happy anniversary. Secret Admirer would like Bad-riya to know he cares.

A new English-language radio station is taking Kuwait's lovesick youth by storm with a show on which sweethearts dedicate songs and call to discuss hot topics like arranged marriage.

The 2½ hour Monday evening Loveline is bold step for this conservative society where many marriages are arranged and unsupervised contact be-

tween unrelated boys and girls is rare.

The show may also be heard in many Gulf states, including ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia, and regularly takes calls and dedications from listeners in these neighbouring countries.

Kuwaiti youngsters who once relied on stealth to communicate with sweethearts now simply call the state-owned superstation on FM 99.7 and dedicate a song.

The lovelorn can bare their souls about the cruelty of separation or parental intolerance to sympathetic American-accented presenter Tala Al Yagout.

Yagout, touching on his favourite theme, replies:

"But Hadi, good things come along only once in life, and maybe you mis-

sed your chance. So I agree with you, love should not to be fooled around with. Love is no game."

"I made a mistake once, and I would like to share it with you. Once there was the most beautiful girl in the world and I just let a chance go away because of immature actions," he told Yagout.

"I'd just like to say I'm sorry and please never forget me. And I don't know how to say this, but if I had another chance to talk to her I would be grateful."

Teenagers send dedications to parents and sometimes beg forgiveness for acts of naughtiness. Husband send glowing tributes to wives. Teenagers profess traditional values.

"If my parents disagree

with me about the one I love, I won't get married to him because that will make some problems in the family," declared a caller named Munira.

But the general impression is decidedly Western, and the station launched in August and its Kuwaiti presenters, have also won a big following among Western troops who deployed here last month amid heightened tension with Iraq.

"We forget we're in Kuwait," Yagout, who is also station manager, told Reuters. "We think we're in the U.S. or Europe. The station has opened the door and taken people outside."

"The loveline is my per-

sonal show. I try to direct the callers in the right path from my experience," said Yagout, a U.S.-educated former oil executive.

Calls come in from as far away as the United States and Europe during a number of programmes the station broadcasts internationally for Kuwaitis studying overseas.

The station's target market is 17 to 30-year-olds — the group that until August often had to devise elaborate strategies to communicate with the opposite sex. Some still do.

Some teenagers hang around supermarkets looking for a date. In a well-known ritual, a boy or girl will scrawl a message or pager number on notepaper which they

stick on a can while somehow making eye contact with the object of their devotion.

They will then discreetly move off, and the prospective sweethearts comes to retrieve the message.

Sometimes this strategy works but others are not so subtle.

Some youths drive fast cars on a seashore boulevard with signs in English like "be mine" on the back windscreen — even though car stickers are banned.

Others steer their car dangerously close to any young woman they find driving alone and leer at her.

## Middle-aged Japanese men urged to get a life



Annual review finds Japanese men have ignored their families far too long

If they do not learn to enjoy life outside company circles, the baby-boomers, now mostly in their 40s, will face a major personal crisis by the time they reach retirement, Mr. Kondo said.

Many retired men, the PA report said, become what is popularly known as "wet autumn leaves" of the "me-too tribe".

They earn the name because they tend to cling to damp, dead leaves to more independent family members, especially their wives. They begin to join family activities they have neglected for years for fear of being left alone at home.

Most of these men started working in the early 1970s, when Japan was trying to catch up with the West.

They were taught to

sacrifice themselves for their companies and for the sake of Japan's high economic growth, the report said.

The EPA's annual report also focused on the problems Japan faces as its society ages rapidly.

It said that while the situation may not be as pressing nor as acute as that in some European countries, the consequences may be just as daunting.

Because of the world's longest average life expectancy, Japan will become the oldest industrial nation by the turn of the century, according to United Nations forecasts.

By the year 2040, the United Nations predicts Japan will have twice as many senior citizens as it does today. Currently 14 per cent of the Japanese population is 65 or older.

Some aggravate latent marital problems and

most are prone to disregard their health," said Ms. Mukuno, of the Foundation of Senior Life Enrichment.

According to the foundation, 47.8 per cent of some 1,000 working middle-aged men polled said they felt their lives were fulfilled only when they were engrossed in work.

Only 5.5 per cent of respondents said they felt the same way when spending time with their families.

"Once they become wet autumn leaves, they are not likely to change," Ms. Mukuno said.

"Middle-aged men should get out of the office, develop hobbies, perhaps go to night classes, or enroll in volunteer organisations while they are still active members of the society," she added.

## Lazy Japanese men blamed for falling birth rate

TOKYO (R) — Going forth to multiply with a妻 who never helps round the house is such a dismal prospect for Japanese women that they are staying single, delaying marriage and bringing down the nation's birth rate.

Working women, the government's Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said, are loath to marry the stereotypical male whose role is little more than bringing home the paycheck.

In its annual report on the national lifestyle, the agency said that to improve their shoddy image, Japanese men should learn to participate more around the house and especially in their children's education.

The report, which focuses on the causes, trends and problems of Japan's ageing population, cites marriages and the increasing number of single people as the main causes behind the relentless drop in the nation's birth rate.

While a typical Japanese woman in 1993 gave birth to 1.46 children in her lifetime, in 1970 this figure was 2.13, according to the Ministry of Wel-

fare. In 2025 the figure will rise only slightly to 1.8, the ministry said.

Women, however, now marry on average at the age of 26.1, according to the EPA. In 1955, the average age was 23.8.

The figures are particularly worrying for the government, which is concerned about the rapid greying of Japanese society and the adverse effect this is having on public finances.

But for Japanese men, old habits could be hard to break. Another recent government survey said 85.8 per cent, including unmarried men, have never lifted a finger to help with household chores.

Similar surveys in the U.S. and Britain showed that 37.9 and 51.7 per cent of men, respectively, were as uncooperative.

While average Japanese working women put in about 16 hours of office work per day against four hours of housework, their male counterparts are likely to work 10.5 hours and spend less than half an hour around the house, the EPA said.

The traditional view that a woman should be

married at the latest by the age of 24 has also eroded.

Though women past that age are still sometimes called "Christmas cakes" — because they are past their "sell-by date" of the 25th — the stigma is weakening.

"Women, since the late seventies, have idealised being free and single for as long as possible, and that ideal is as strong as ever," Yoriko Madoka, lawmaker and author of a number of books on women's issues, told Reuters.

But for Japanese men, old habits could be hard to break. Another recent government survey said 85.8 per cent, including unmarried men, have never lifted a finger to help with household chores.

"Women, especially those with working experience, are disillusioned with the kind of marriage common in Japan, where they are stuck at home bringing up the children and doing the housework while their husbands are out most of the time," she said. "Many young women wish to avoid this kind of marriage."

But the ideal is often overshadowed by reality.

"The reality in Japan is that the culture and institutions — legal, health care, and tax systems — are still heavily in favour of married couples," Ms. Madoka said.

## The phenomenon of Israeliness

Israel: Politics, Myths And Identity Crises

By Akiva Orr

Pluto Press, London 1994, £35/£10.95 (pb)

This book is a collection of 14 essays, ranging in length from three to 25 pages, eight of which were published between 1972 and 1990. What strikes the reader is the unevenness of the pieces in tone and subject matter, and the lack of focus. The volume could, and should, have been much better organised, with some pieces eliminated and repetitions avoided. The longest essay, on "the Kastner case," seems totally out of place and unintelligible, at least to this reviewer.

There are really three topics in these essays: Jewish identity; Israeli society; and ethnicity and nationalism. The discussion of the first and last of these is certainly enlightening. The unique and anomalous nature of contemporary Jewish identity is lucidly analysed. The unique and anomalous nature of Israeli society, due to its origins and development, is dealt with less successfully.

The author introduces the phenomenon of Israeliness, made up of the elements of Hebrew as a mother tongue, atheism, modernity and the lack of minority complexes. The issue is what percentage of the Israeli population fits the definition. According to the best surveys, it is probably about 35 per cent today, still a minority. Orr notes that Yitzhak Rabin fits the definition of Israeliness, which may have something

to do with his current role. One fact that Orr seems unaware of is that most Israelis support Zionist ideology.

Regarding ethnicity and nationalism, the author presents a nuanced position of fighting any form of discrimination based on ethnicity, while at the same time being opposed to political units based on ethnicity. The ideal presented here is that of separating religion, race and ethnicity from the state. While the first two elements in this idea seem to be universally accepted, the separation of ethnicity from the state still seems like a radical idea in most nations.

## BOOK REVIEW

Despite the problems noted above, there is nevertheless an evenness and uniqueness of voice in this book. The style is always clear and incisive. The author writes in a very personal and very honest way, and the reader may get a good impression of his consistent and principled stance over the years. He defines himself as an "Israeli anthropocentric socialist" (a founding member of the Matzpen group), and as such he is committed to the idea of a democratic, secular state for Israelis and Palestinians. The whole book can be read as an elaboration of this viewpoint — Middle East International.

Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi

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## William Shatner says farewell to Captain Kirk

By Stephen Schaefer  
Reuter

NEW YORK — A philosophical William Shatner voices "regret and sorrow that I have to say goodbye to a character I've enjoyed playing."

He's discussing, of course, his alter ego for the past 28 years, Captain James Tiberius Kirk, who beams up for his final space trip in the film *Star Trek: Generations*.

At 63, Shatner and the original crew of the Starship Enterprise are to be replaced by a younger crew, led by Patrick Stewart as Enterprise Captain Jean-Luc Picard, and the stars of the recently cancelled *Star Trek: The New Generation* TV series. This crew's mission is to carry the highly profitable big-screen *Star Trek* series into the 21st century.

In *Generations*, the seventh *Star Trek* feature, the enduring and until

now invincible Kirk passes into pop mythology, cradled in the arms of his successor on a faraway planet in the 24th century, having just travelled through a mysterious time warp.

When Shatner assumed the role of Kirk in 1966 for the series that promised to go "where no man has gone before," his boss was Lucille Ball, owner of Desilu Studios, Lyndon B. Johnson was U.S. president, the Vietnam War was raging and LSD was soon to become a familiar term. As was Kirk's "beam me up Scotty."

In those days Kirk seemed to be smitten weekly with the often pulchritudinous guest actresses clad in ancient Greek garb. "It was shameful," Shatner agrees. However, Picard is practically celibate. "That's shameful," Shatner quips.

How did Shatner and Stewart get along for this transition? "Great we're

buddies," Shatner said in a recent interview. "But he's English you know."

As everyone knows by now, *Generations* has had a bumpy flight — its climactic, history-making finish had to be reshotted. Confesses the star, "when I heard the news my first question was, 'as it my performance?' it wasn't."

"As written originally," he explains, "Kirk was shot in the back and Picard disposed of the villain and cradled me as I died. When the picture was tested, the group had a bad reaction. They ascertained it was the manner in which Kirk dies — as against Kirk dying — that upset them."

"Paramount, to shore up this new wave of movies they hope will continue, that contain the new cast, spent \$5 million (in a \$30 million picture) and reshotted the ending," Shatner said.

But can Kirk really die? They killed off Leonard

Nimoy's pointy-eared Vulcan Spock — and brought him back. For Shatner, it's final. As he sits in a hotel restaurant, dressed dapperly in a dark brown suit with a colour-coordinated print tie,

Shatner manages to be both amused and bemused by this last go-round with the character that, he knows, will dominate his obituary as it has his life.

Unlike Nimoy, who deftly penned "I am not Spock," Shatner is grateful for Kirk. Since the first *Star Trek* feature in 1979 revived his career, he has parlayed Kirk's pop culture standing into books, personal appearances and three TV series, *T.J. Hooker*, the current *Rescue 911* and, as of next month, *Star USA Cable Network*, he will produce, sometimes direct and guest star in *Tek Wars*, based on his best-selling sci-fi books.

Single again after a second divorce, Shatner laughs away the recent

burst of Shatner-bashing in tell-all books by *Trek* veterans Michelle Nichols and George Takei.

"I think they've taken leave of their senses. I've never had a cross word with either of them (although I don't know them very well). But I don't know what they're talking about."

When the talk turns to why *Star Trek* has endured, he does know. "There's the fascination of space, a universe out there with some answers that somebody's dreamed up that might — fantastically enough — be right," he says.

"And perhaps the crew are a mythological presence in this 'disposable culture', a hardy group of individuals who might reflect the Greek storytelling device of a hero and his followers in travels: An odyssey kind of thing. That supplies a need in our culture for a mythological hero who exists in the future."



The two starship captains (James Kirk (William Shatner) left and Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart) are called back to duty in *Star Trek: The New Generation*

## Kylie takes new lead in gay community seriously

By Belinda Goldsmith  
Reuter

SYDNEY — Australia's Kylie Minogue has become an icon of the country's gay community and recently showed she was taking her new role seriously by launching Australia's AIDS Awareness Week.

The country's best known actress-singer has won the hearts of the local male gay community with her dance music, flamboyant costumes and centre-fold male dance troupes.

But Kylie, who is now projecting a more mature image, is not only acknowledging her gay following, but like other international celebrities is championing the fight against AIDS.

This year she performed at Australia's massive annual gay and lesbian event, the Mardi Gras, where she met two AIDS sufferers, Simon and Brenton.

At a Sydney hospice Friday, she launched Australia's AIDS Awareness Week, which includes World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, joining Madonna and Elizabeth Taylor in the global Campaign Against AIDS.

"Sadly Simon is no longer with us but I would like to thank Brenton for making that night so much more special for me," Kylie said at the launch.

"Like all of us I have come face-to-face with the prejudice against HIV and AIDS. Everyone in Australia needs to be reminded that HIV affects

us all," she said.

The 26-year-old star, once nicknamed the singing budgie since she is just 1.5 metres (4.9 ft) tall, has undergone a complete metamorphosis since 1987 when she stepped out of the costume of Charlene in the Australian soap opera *Neighbours*, where she played against childhood sweetheart Jason Donovan.

In jitterbug skirt, long hair and whiter-than-white smile she jived her way through her first single, a remake of Little Eva's *Locomotion*, which stayed at number one in the Australian charts for seven weeks.

Followed by *I Should Be Lucky*, *Je Ne Sais Pas Pourquoi*, and the I've got to be Certain, the girl-next-door image was hard

to shake off — but Kylie persevered, and her much-publicised affair with Michael Hutchence, lead singer of Australian rock group INXS, put her in a new more mature light.

Her latest single, *Confide In Me*, which has topped the charts in Britain and Australia, portrays Kylie as the vampish, dance diva, complete with tussled hair, wonderbra and lipstick coated pout.

A video of her next single, *Put Yourself In My Place*, to be released this week, shows a naked Kylie in a scene reminiscent

of *Barbarella* with a strong disco back-beat appeals to the gay community which likes dance music," Johnson said.

"But also her style is quite camp with pink feathers and dancing around with muscle boys and that strong image appealed to gay communities in the late 1980s and early 1990s," he said.

"Add her rags to riches success and that is why she has had such success."

Johnson said that unlike Madonna, Kylie had never

set out to attract a gay following. It just happened.

The president of the Australian Federation of AIDS Association, Tony Keenen, describes himself as a "35-year-old Kylie groupie."

"For the gay community the 1980s and 1990s have been devastating and it's fair to say we're having more than a rough trot," Keenen told Reuters.

"Kylie has been important to gays during this time as her music has been in the clubs for us to go and dance our heads off."



Kylie Minogue

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SUPER STATS

By Joan D. Berbrich

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## GATT hails U.S. House trade pact vote, eyes Senate

GENEVA (R) — GATT officials and diplomats Wednesday hailed the strong U.S. House of Representatives vote for the new world trade pact and signalled hope the global deal would now pass the stiffer test of the Senate.

"The big majority in favour is very impressive, but we are obviously not counting our money until the Senate has voted," said David Woods, spokesman for the GATT, "due to be absorbed under the accord into a new World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Singapore's ambassador to the body, the 48-year-old general Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, K. Kesavapany, said the House majority of 288 to 146, was "most satisfactory."

"I hope it will lead to the Senate taking a similar position," said Mr. Kesavapany — a key trade envoy guiding institutional and legal preparations for the planned establishment of the WTO on Jan. 1 next.

In an interview just before the House vote, GATT chief Peter Sutherland told Reuters he was hopeful the Senate — where at least 60 out of 100 votes are needed on Thursday — would endorse the pact which he says will give a massive boost to the world economy.

"The overall indications we are receiving here from Washington are very posi-

tive," said Mr. Sutherland, a one-time Irish lawyer who drove the seven-year Uruguay Round negotiations on the deal to a successful conclusion last December.

"I think it would be inconceivable that the United States, which has been a leader in the development of world-wide free trade and the multilateral trading system could bring down the system at the end of the day," he added.

"I consider that would be an incredible result, and therefore I don't countenance it happening," said Mr. Sutherland, who is stepping down from the trade watchdog as a successor to head the WTO, currently under discussion, is agreed.

Although other major trading powers — the European Union, Japan and Canada — have yet to finalise approval of the accord, all have made clear they will do so after U.S. ratification.

If the senators say no, the historic deal will collapse as the WTO could not exist without the United States — the top partner for almost all trading nations.

GATT analysts, in common with many other economists, say the treaty which opens up world markets to services, farm produce and textiles, will be adding over \$500 billion to world income — \$122 billion of it to the United States — by 2005.

"If the U.S. fails to ratify

the agreements, we would lose all that benefit," said Sutherland. "But I believe it would also damage beyond repair the existing GATT structures that have been built up so painstakingly since 1945."

The fear of pact supporters, who include the governments of the 124 members of the GATT and others waiting to join the WTO, is that U.S. senators will be swayed by "sovereignty" arguments that sank an effort to set up a world trade body in the 1940s.

Opponents of the deal on right and left in the United States say the WTO, whose rules provide for a quicker solution of trade disputes, could effectively overrule U.S. domestic legislation on labour, environment and similar issues as well as trade.

This is rejected by the Clinton administration, and by Mr. Sutherland. "There is no threat whatsoever to sovereignty arising out of the creation of the WTO. If this were an issue, one would expect it to surface everywhere," the GATT chief said.

"The reason it hasn't, and the reason that it is not a serious argument, is that this is an intra-governmental organisation, and none of its provisions include a right to over-rule national legislation or courts in any way," he added.

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants at the global workshop on "women and credit" reaffirmed Tuesday the necessity to increase the economic and political participation of women in the business field and to work on eliminating any obstacle in their path.

During a press conference held at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, each of the representatives from more than 25 countries presented a paper listing what needs to be accomplished to serve women.

Zohra Merabet, regional programme advisor of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) suggested some methods to strengthen the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and their role for the 1995 Beijing conference on women.

Maha Khatib, representative of UNIFEM in western Asia, called for strengthening institutions' role for the development of women enterprises.

Other representatives from Latin America, spoke briefly about their plans which aimed at enhancing women's projects.

Alicia Mondesire, consul-

## Women exchange views on business

tant in gender issues tackled the gender planning issue and pointed out ways to provide participants with a gender lens in design and implementation of credit programmes.

The five-day workshop, organised by UNIFEM and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Planning, was designed to tackle the inequality between men and women in competing for loans and jobs in developing countries.

The workshop also aimed at promoting cross regional exchange of experience between countries in credit and micro-enterprises.

The long-term outcome of

the workshop will focus on improving gender-sensitive management of projects, and improving networks so that more women micro-entrepreneurs can be reached.

According to Ms. Khatib, the 40 managers and national coordinators of micro-enterprise development pro-

jects, representing 30 countries will be divided into groups and each will present a list of recommendations and policies on financial services, providing credit for women to be adopted and implemented," Ms. Khatib said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR DECEMBER 1, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Any changes you feel are for the better can be made this evening if you follow hunches where new ones are concerned. Try to keep any discussions on track by sticking to the subject.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Gain the favour of a bigwig during the day for some ambitious plan you have in mind, but don't let them know what's wrong in the evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) Try a new tact, and gain a personal aim, but carry through once you have made up your mind and don't dally day to get it completed.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 18) Study your worldly goals, and make them work like a charm, and don't permit a negative thinking person to dissuade you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Look to a powerful friend to help you with some new interests which could prove most constructive.

LEO: (July 22 to August 19) Make the right decision about a future course of action with one you want as an associate, but measure down in black and white.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 19) Know what a fellow astrologer expects of you, both financially and in business matters. Avoid family ties who is opposed to new interests you have.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 20) Get your home in tip-top condition, and be happier in it. Start using your own head instead of listening to the ideas and suggestions of others.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have to come follow associate if you want to have some pleasure you desire, clever and you will succeed with your endeavours.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 19) You have a chance to talk with kin about finances, so don't procrastinate any longer, if you delay you could be short of funds.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) You have a problem in the business world which a good fellow associate can help you solve. Be happy in the evening with your loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 19) Look for suggestions from a good pal regarding some modern idea you have, and you can have it successfully for a more profitable conclusion.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Sagittarius will focus your attention on your finest talents but in order to gain greatest benefits you will have to turn down invitations from others. You will be busy and productive.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Anything you have in mind with secretive can now be made to work very much to your benefit in the affairs which are important to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) Get in touch with friends with whom you want to have some alliance which can be mutually advantageous for all of those involved.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 18) Anything you do now of a playful nature can bring you greater esteem and prestige towards your success. Be full of enthusiasm in the morning.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get into ventures of worth today which can bring fine benefits in the future. Plan a long awaited trip with your mate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 19) Get into the most worthwhile activities with your mate, and make big progress in them. Be tactful towards those you conduct business with.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 19) Be more concerned with your relationship with a partner, and get it improved to the advantage of both of you in terms of your success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 20) You know how to handle tasks ahead of you and you should apply yourself seriously and become more successful in the future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can come to a better understanding with your mate. Be more willing to compromise some to have a better relationship with your loved one.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 19) You find it much easier to get kin to agree with your ideas. A good evening for invites friends into your home for a friendly visit.

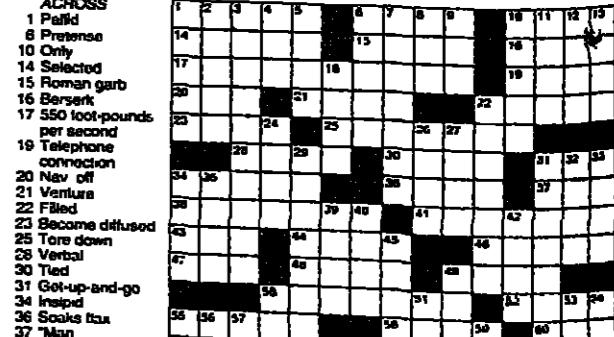
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Be sure to add a friendly word in any communications and get good results. Be cheerful and happy towards your loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Finances should be uppermost on your mind since today you can do much to add to your present abundance so that you will be successful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 19) Find some way of gaining what you most want of a personal nature. Join a group of friends at some delightful affair which you all will enjoy.

## THE Daily Crossword

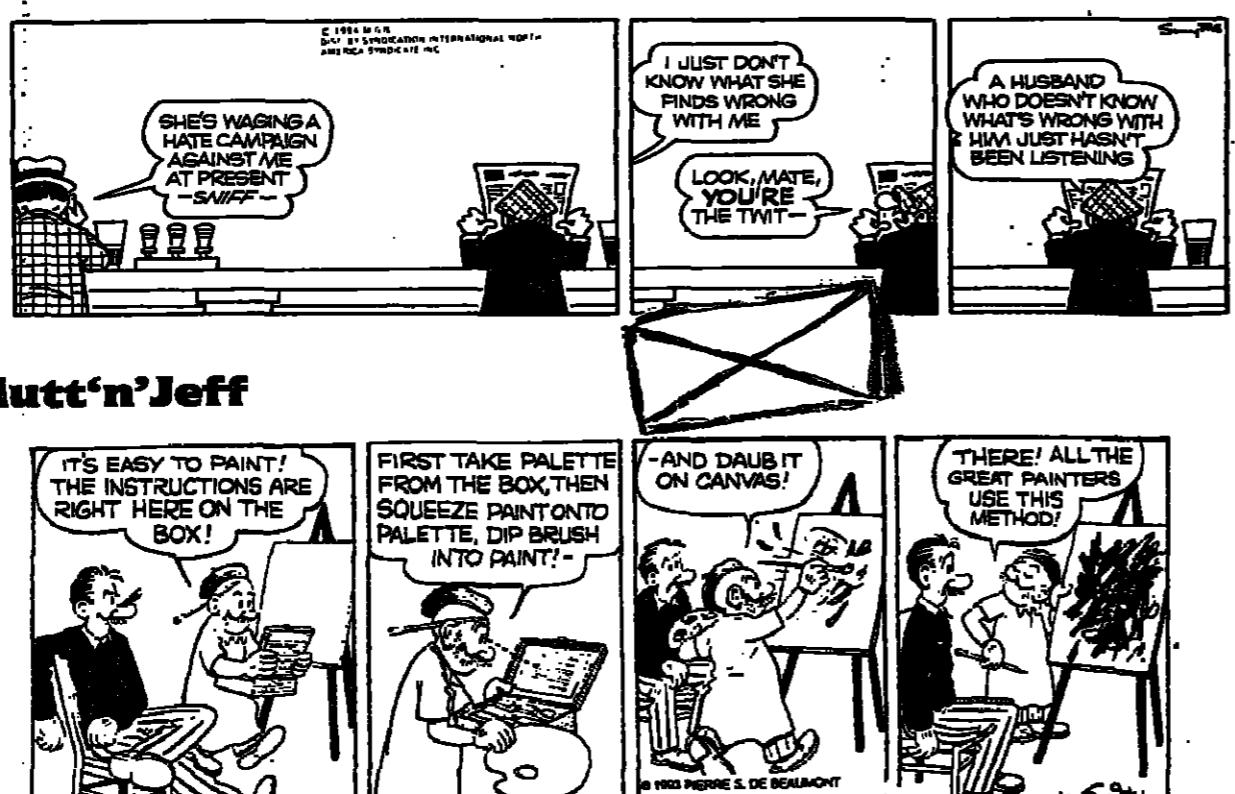
by Roger Jurgovan



### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### THE BETTER HALF

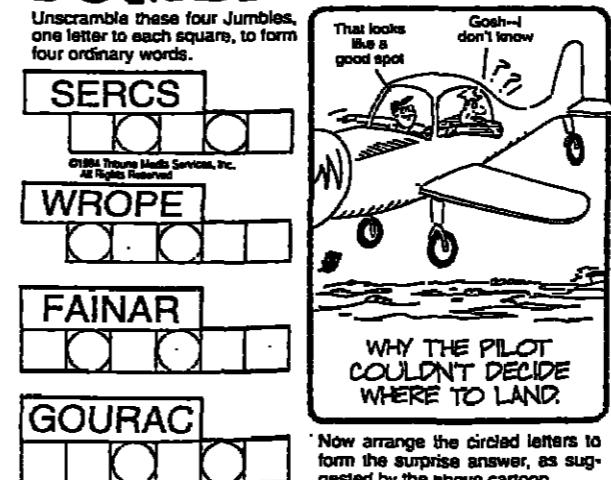
By Glasberg



"No, I'm not completely stressed out tonight... my left elbow is still in a good mood."

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Nille Arlison

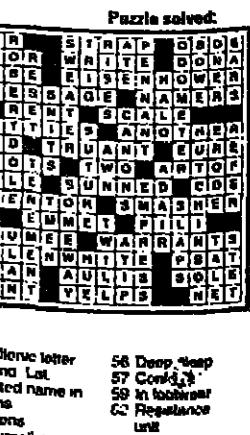


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: HE IN THE (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: DEITY FRAUD FOMENT TYPHUS

Answer: What the post office experiences when rates are about to go up — A STAMP-ED



## Daily Business Beat

★★ The budget for 1995 is facing strong protest among members of the Lower House of Parliament and some deputies have even frankly vowed to turn it down. The parliamentarians say that they were not consulted over the particulars of the budget which also did not include projects that they had asked for before. They say that many of the projects, which were repeatedly postponed and which are urgently needed, were not included in the budget although they were promised that the projects would be carried out next year. The complaints point out that the budget did not create new jobs in the administrative system and that it did not give the proper attention to improve the living standards of civil servants and military personnel (Al Ra'i).

★★ The National Company for Aluminium Industries has signed an agreement with the Italian company Cider Montag. Under the accord, the Italian firm would provide designs to build the factory and provide all needed equipment. Signing the agreement on behalf of the Jordanian company were board chairman Hani Haj Hassan and board member and general manager Hassan Haj Hassan (Al Ra'i).

★★ A shipment of 50,000 gas cylinders from Brazil will arrive here within the coming 10 days. The Jordan Petroleum Refinery has increased its production of gas cylinders from 300 to 500 since the beginning of the year but that was not enough due to the high demand (Al Aswag).

★★ The Ministry of Supply will be issuing over the next few days a new formula on prices of auto spare parts to correspond with the situation created by the recent changes in customs tariffs (Al Aswag).

★★ Visitors to the 95 auto exhibition at the International Motor Exhibition say car prices are still high and that the large decline was only reflected on high-class vehicles (Al Aswag + Al Ra'i).

★★ Israeli tourists should not be considered among the groups that activate the tourism industry in Jordan. An Israeli tourist comes in the morning and leaves to Israel in the evening, says Ziyad Qsous, owner of Um Qais resthouse (Al Aswag).

★★ Licensed banks had a total of JD 5,224.3m of deposits at the end of September 1994. The increase in the past nine months amounted to JD 284.9 million, a 5.8 per cent rise over the JD 4939.4m at the end of 1993 (Al Aswag).

★★ Lands estimated at JD 2 million are being auctioned by the Arab Bank Ltd. An announcement by the land registrar for eastern Amman listed 68 plots of land in Marka and Tabarbour belonging to Mahmoud Rafik Salai as guarantor for the indebtedness of Fahmi Hasan Qasem Amer, a contractor.

★★ According to Umayyah Touqan, director-general of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) there are some 800,000 shareholders in various companies and institutions. He said that 50 per cent of those who conduct dealings at the AFM seek good investment opportunities while the other 50 per cent only seek to make quick gains (Al Dustour).

★★ Merchants have noticed that none of the candidates running for the elections of the Chamber of Commerce have revealed their views on direct selling at fairs, bazaars and similar function. Merchants want the candidates to clarify their positions concerning this "incurable disease" (Al Aswag).

★★ No permits will be issued for any non-Jordanian driver after Dec. 1-1994. About 650 truck drivers are unemployed in Amman alone (Al Dustour).

Samir Shafiq Ghawi

## Lebanese government postpones pay discussions

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government postponed a promised discussion of labour demands for higher pay, saying it would not consider them under pressure.

Interior Minister Michel Al Murr said the government did not want to talk under the pressure of a 24-hour general strike staged by the General Labour Confederation (CGTL) Tuesday.

"The cabinet will discuss them (the demands) in peace and quiet, not under the influence of a strike," Mr. Murr said after a late-night cabinet meeting Tuesday.

The cabinet would study a report on the pay demands on Thursday. Mr. Murr had previously said it would discuss them on Tuesday.

Tuesday's strike was a partial success.

Many of Lebanon's estimated 350,000 private sector workers downed tools to pro-

test against the government's failure to grant an 88 per cent pay rise and schooling and transportation allowances.

CGTL President Elias Abou Rizk accused the government of procrastination on Wednesday but said he was not surprised by its failure to "consider living conditions despite their importance to the public."

He warned the government against taking any action against public sector workers who joined the strike.

However, Mr. Murr said warnings would be sent to those among the 120,000 public workers who joined the stoppage — the first general strike against the two-year-old government of billionaire Prime Minister Rafiq Al Hariri.

The CGTL has threatened further action if its demands are not met.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET		
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST / 663170		
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OPENED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST / 663170		
10/11/94		
ABRA BANK		
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22,612	66,774	3,720
22,613	66,774	

## Jazireh tame Jalil in 3rd place showdown Homentmen relegated; Ahli continue unbeaten streak

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Jazireh Tuesday tamed Al Jalil in their 3rd place battle when they overcame the team from Irbid 71-55 to hold on to third place for the third straight year.

Although both teams missed the efforts of key players, Al Jazireh had the advantage throughout while their opponents seemed at a loss in the absence of their coach who resigned two days ago!

In the day's other match Al Watani scored a hard-fought 89-76 victory over Homentmen as the latter was officially relegated. Al Watani and Al Hussein have a crucial match on Dec. 12 that will decide who will accompany Homentmen to the second division.

Titleholders Al Ahli scored an easy 102-48 victory over Al Hussein in Irbid in the third match of the day.

Al Jazireh's ambitions for an advanced standing will have to rest with third place for now as they need to score a 17-point victory over Al Orthodox to take second place.

Al Jazireh had defeated Al Jalil 73-69 in the first round, therefore Al Jalil had to score a victory with

five points to clinch the third place which they last held in 1991, before losing to Al Jazireh.

However that was not the case Tuesday, as Al Jazireh entered the match with their ambitious lineup only missing Naser Alawneh who was down with flu.

In the absence of key player Raed Jaber who watched the match from the bench in the first half, Al Jalil were led by Naser Bassam who was previously at Al Hussein with Alawneh.

Although scoring remained close at first, Al Jazireh took their first noticeable lead at 15-9 and continued to score by Husam Lutfi and Yousef Abu Baker to expand the gap to 25-11.

Two three pointers by Al Jalil still kept a 10-point lead for Al Jazireh at 29-19. Lutfi and Abu Baker continued to score, aided by Ma'an Odeh to end the first half 44-30.

Earlier, Al Watani and Homentmen played a match which was marred by substandard refereeing to which both teams' players repeatedly objected. This resulted in two technical fouls for Homentmen.

The defeat meant Homentmen was officially re-

legated after failing to score the minimum number of wins. Their only slim chance of avoiding relegation was in the event of defeating Al Watani by 26 points and Al Hussein by 14 points!

Al Watani had easily won their first round encounter 74-49. However that was not the case Tuesday when Homentmen played one of their best matches but lost both halves by a slim margin 49-40 and 40-36 as the match ended with a 13-point win for Al Watani who still need to overcome Al Hussein by four points to avoid relegation.

Al Watani led 9-5 before Homentmen scored by Vicken Avakian and Al'a Abu Rahmei to take an 11-9 lead. Both teams scored from free throws and three pointers as the match was tied at 20-20 in the 10th minute.

Al Watani then scored 10 consecutive points by Faris Dahabreh and Hani Al Taher to lead 30-20, but Homentmen did the same scoring by Vasken Adjemian and Robert Chamaian to take the lead at 31-30.

Al Watani then scored 4 three-pointers while their undermanned opponents

slowed down their pace as Al Watani ended the first half 49-40.

Al Watani expanded the gap by Taber before Sevan Sarkissian scored two consecutive three-pointers and added another two to reduce Al Watani's lead to 56-53.

Al Watani who badly needed to win as a first step towards securing their place in the division scored eight points to lead 64-53.

Homentmen's Chamaian netted in a three-pointer. However, his team then failed to score for more than two minutes as Al Watani took advantage of many turnovers and forced their opponents to foul their fast breaks to take a commanding 70-58 lead.

Although the match had 11 minutes to go, Homentmen's coach who has failed to successfully guide the team through the past three seasons, seemed to give up

as Al Watani continued to score by Dahabreh ending the match with a 13-point win.

Al Watani who lost to Al Hussein 79-76 in the first round will now have to defeat the Irbid team with four points to avoid relegation.

In the other match titleholders Al Ahli scored a 102-48 win over Al Hussein who missed at least three key players because of injury including Hadi Al Sayes, Mustafa Al Kofahi, while Al Ahli's Ramez Hammoudah and Naser Bushnaq also did not play.

Al Ahli took a 31-9 lead before sealing the first half 58-21.

Most bench players were given a chance to play, including the younger lineup of Riyad Ayyash, Moharram and Taimour Al Shamali and Zeid Alkhas as Al Ahli ended the match with a big win.

### STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Ahli	8	8	—	888	439	16
Jazireh	8	6	2	685	586	14
Orthodox	7	6	1	665	410	13
Jalil	7	3	4	520	497	10
Watani	8	2	6	592	746	10
Hussein	8	2	6	471	728	10
Homentmen	8	—	8	398	807	8

## Montana, his luck gone, falls prey to injury

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Joe Montana, whose tendency to get hurt was his only liability

in recent years, stood tall as seven starters on the Kansas City Chiefs went down with

injuries.

His luck lasted until he was caught from behind in the pocket and was tackled around the ankles in the Chiefs' 10-9 loss at Seattle Sunday.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer said Monday that Montana's injury was officially diagnosed as a sprained foot.

Montana, whose elbow injury at San Francisco cost him two years and ultimately led to his trade to Kansas

City, missed one game last year with a hurt thumb and four games with a hamstring injury.

He was knocked out of the American Football Conference Championship game at Buffalo with a concussion — an injury that led his family, particularly his father, to campaign for him to retire.

But Montana made it through 11 games this year with little more than nicks and bruises. Ironically, his chief protector for the offen-

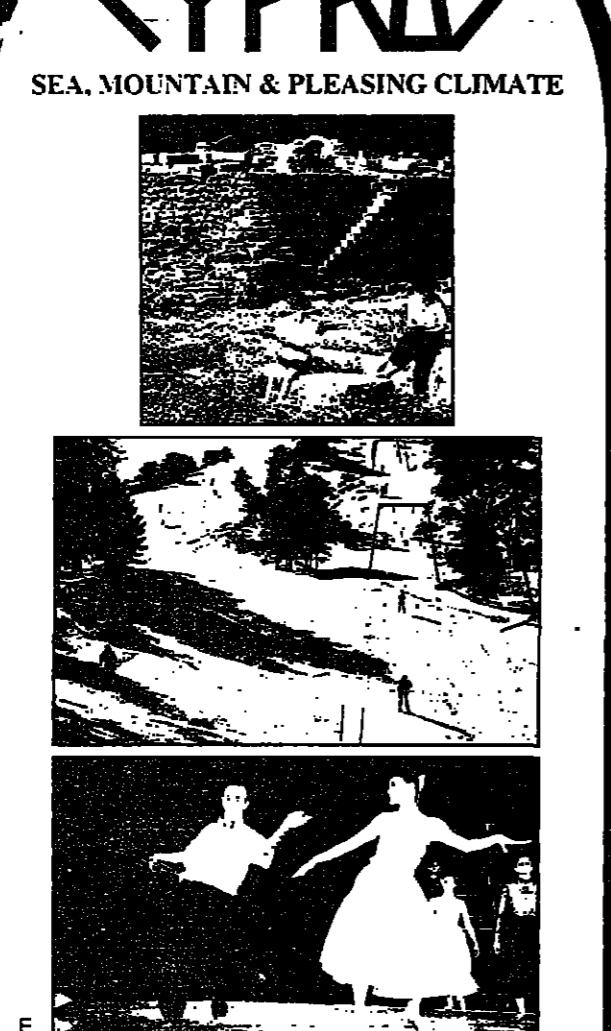
sive line, left tackle John Alt, is reduced by back pains to walking around the Chiefs' practice field.

Montana was asked about it Friday, 48 hours before he was hurt while desperately trying to jump-start the offense.

"Lucky," he said. "It's just the way it goes. Sometimes you're the one who gets hurt and sometimes you're not. Last year, I had two things that lingered for almost the whole year."



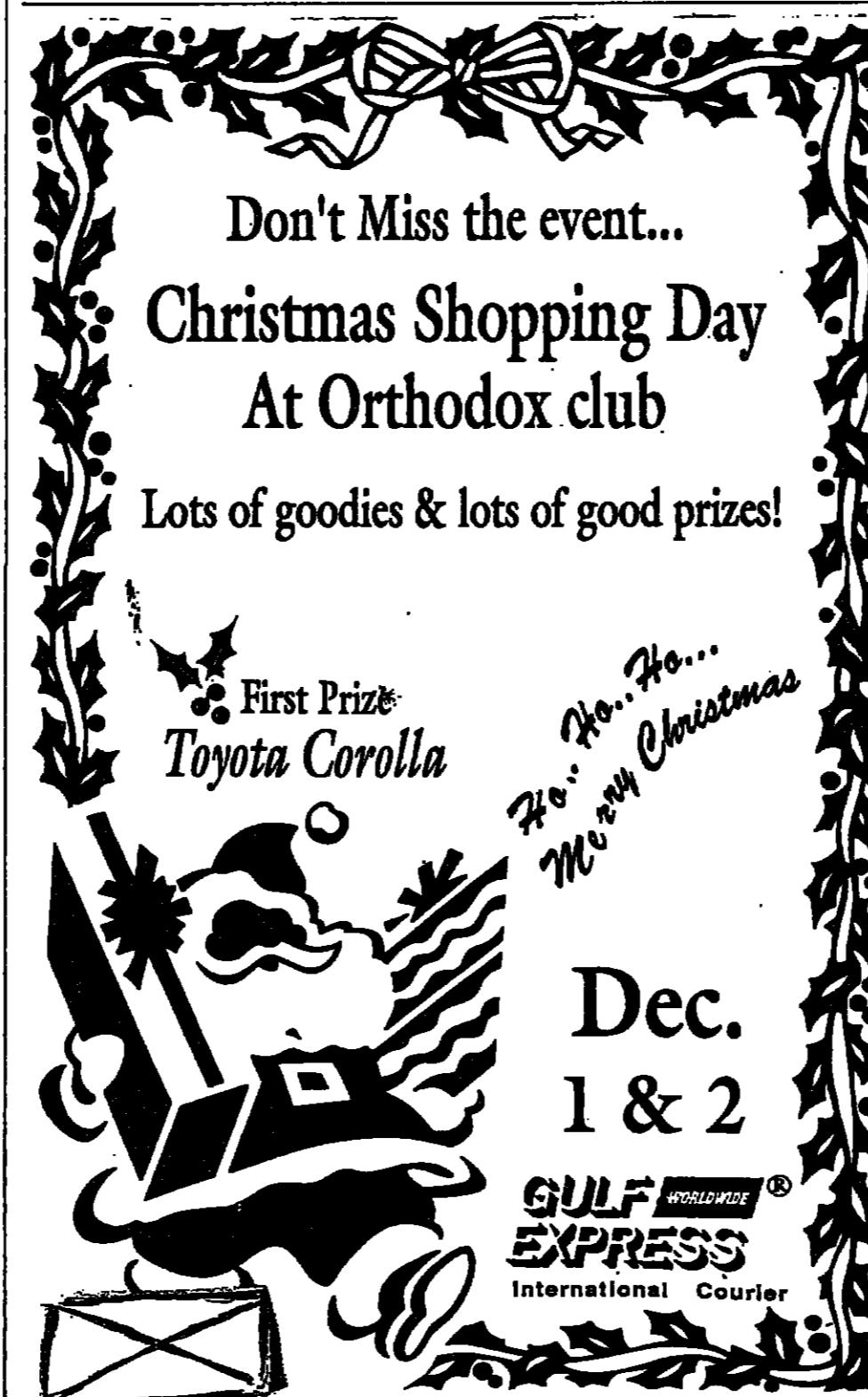
**CYPRUS**  
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## Savicevic back for Milan in Intercontinental Cup

TOKYO (AP) — AC Milan

will have Yugoslav midfiel-

der Dejan Savicevic back for

the Intercontinental Cup match

with Velez Sarsfield in Tokyo Thurs-

day.

"Savicevic can play for 90

minutes without any prob-

lem," coach Fabio Capello

said on the eve of a match

that could give Milan a fourth

world club title to avenge

their narrow defeat to Sao

Paulo last year.

The Argentine side, who

beat Sao Paulo on penalties

for their first Copa Libe-

rtadores final, are

expected to play their

usual defensive game.

Forwards Omar Andres

Asad and Jose Oscar Flores

struck 10 out of the 15 goals

their team scored in the

South American club cham-

pionships, although Para-

guayan goalkeeper Jose Luis

Chilavert can be just as

dangerous when he moves up

to take free-kicks and pen-

alties. "We have turned up per-

fectly," said Velez coach Car-

los Bianchi.

Capello, who had eight

players in the United States,

blamed World Cup handover

for his team's poor start to

the season.

Milan have played

11 matches in the

league and

10 in the cup, with

10 wins and

one draw.

AC Milan: Sebastian

si; Mauro Tassotti, Pa-

olo Baresi, Alessandro Cas-

ta, Paolo Maldini, Ma-

donald, Marcel Di-

Zvominic, Boban, Dejan

Albertini, Dejan Savic-

evic, Daniele Massaro.

Velez Sarsfield (prob-)

Joe Chilavert, Flavio Ze-

na, Raul Cardozo, Y-

Sotomayor, Roberto

Jose Basualdo, Roberto

pe, Marcelo Gomez, Chil-

ian Basedas, Omar

Jose Flores.

**Barkley's**  
**injury is**  
**healing**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — As

usual, Charles Barkley

isn't griping his way.

Complaining of pain in his

strained abdominal muscle,

Barkley skipped

Monday's team flight to Milwaukee to begin a seven-game, 13-day

road trip for the Phoenix Suns.

But after a battery of tests

including an MRI, revealed

that the muscle is healing,

he caught a flight to join his

teammates.

Team spokeswoman Juli

Fie said Barkley proba-

bly would get into his sec-

ondary game of the season,

13th for the Suns.

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## German runner banned for steroids

BONN (R) — German international distance runner Martin Bremer has been banned for four years for taking testosterone, the German Athletics Federation (DLV) said Wednesday.

Bremer, who finished third in the 5,000 metres at last September's World Cup in London, admitted taking testosterone but said he had got it from his doctor because a bad case of hepatitis and shingles had stopped the production of natural hormones in his body.

Although German athletics officials said they did not believe Bremer had taken the drug to enhance his performance, he is now banned from all competition for four

years.

"The DLV has suspended the athlete with immediate effect from all competitions and from the squad after he admitted to taking testosterone," the federation said in a statement. "We have ordered the analysis of the B test."

Bremer, a clubmate of Olympic 5,000 metres champion Dieter Baumann, was banned after high levels of the testosterone was found in his body at a road race in Fribourg, Switzerland.

The case is another blow to German athletics just as it seemed to be recovering from the much-publicised scandal involving former double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe.

## Tradition favours Zamalek in African Champions' Cup

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Zamalek go into the first leg of the African Champions' Cup final at the mammoth Nasser Stadium in Cairo this weekend seeking a record fourth title.

Opposing them are another famous North African team, Esperance of Tunisia, who reached the continental club showpiece in 1986 after high levels of the testosterone was found in his body at a road race in Fribourg, Switzerland.

The case is another blow to German athletics just as it seemed to be recovering from the much-publicised scandal involving former double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe.

only by Canon Yaounde of Cameroon and Hafia of Guinea.

And if Zamalek triumph, they will join TP Englebert of Zaire as the sole clubs to successfully defend a trophy named after Sekou Toure, the late ruler of Guinea.

Englebert succeeded in the late 1960s when the competition was in its infancy, and the absence of many leading nations made progress much easier.

Besides a liberal sprinkling of players who have represented Egypt, Zamalek boast Ghanaians Ahmed Oscar and Joe Okyere and Nigerian Akin Akintoshin in their squad. Oscar converted into

Islam and changed his name from Laud when he quit Dawa Young Stars in Ghana to join a club who have monopolised Egyptian football with Al Ahly for decades.

Zambian international Kenneth Maitoli, who recently captained his country in the absence of Kalusha Bwalya, has also proved a menace to defenders, scoring four times.

After comfortable triumphs over moderate opponents from Burkina Faso and Mali, Esperance served notice of their intentions by overwhelming Nigerians Iwanyanwu National 3-0. In the semi-finals, the

leading Tunisian club proved equally irrepressible, defeating Mouloudia Oran 3-1 and drawing 2-2 in Algeria after leading by two goals.

**African Cup factfile**

### Scorers

**Zamalek**  
Ahmad Ramzy, Khaled Al-Ghadour, Ahmad Oscar, Mohammad Ismail

**Esperance**  
Ayadi Hamrouni 6, Kenneth Maitoli 4, Hassan Gabsi, Ben Neji 3, Moez Chefa, Mohammad Mahjoub, Gibby Mbsaela, Thabet Tarak, Noureddine Bousina 1.

Champions' Cup records

**Zamalek**  
1979 quarter-finals, 1984 winners, 1985 semi-finals, 1986 winners, 1987 quarter-finals, 1989 first round, 1993 winners.

**Esperance**  
1971 second round, 1986 quarter-finals, 1989 second round, 1990 quarter-finals, 1992 first round.

**Previous winners**

1964 Oryx Douala (Cameroon), 1965 No competition, 1966 Stade Abidjan (Ivory Coast), 1967-1968 TP Englebert (Zaire), 1969 Ismailia (Egypt), 1970

Asante Kotoko (Ghana), 1971 Canoa Yaounde (Cameroon), 1972 Hafia (Guinea), 1973 Villa (Zaire), 1974 CARA (Congo), 1975 Hafia, 1976 Mouloudia Alger (Algeria), 1977 Hafia, 1978 Cano, 1979 Union Douala (Cameroon), 1980 Cano, 1981 JET (Algeria), 1982 Al-Ahly (Egypt), 1983 Kotoko, 1984 Zamalek, 1985 Royal Armed Forces (Morocco), 1986 Zamalek, 1987 Al-Ahly, 1988 Entente Seif (Algeria), 1989 Raja Casablanca (Morocco), 1990 JS Kabylie (Algeria), 1991 Club Africain (Tunisia), 1992 Wydad Casablanca (Morocco), 1993 Zamalek.

## Kings beat Heat for best start in 12 years

MIAMI (R) — The Sacramento Kings aren't really used to this.

The Kings edged the Miami Heat 94-89 Tuesday for their best start in 12 years and their first win in Miami in seven games.

"I didn't shoot well at all, but the team came through," said Mitch Richmond, a native of nearby Fort Lauderdale who was just 4-of-14 from the field. "I love this gym. This is home, and this is the first time I've ever won here."

A 3-pointer by Brad Lohans cut the deficit to 92-89 with 21 seconds to play.

but rookie Michael Smith scored on a breakaway to seal the win.

"My heart went to my knees when they got that three," Kings coach Garry St. Jean said. "We're heading for the plane before the refs change it (the win)."

Walt Williams scored 20 points and rookie Brian Grant added 16 for the Kings, who won at Miami for the first time since December 7, 1988.

The Kings (6-5) have beaten last-season playoff teams in all of their wins this season and stand above .500 this late in the season for the

first time since they began the 1982-83 campaign at 8-3. Bimbo Coles scored 19 points and Kevin Willis added 17 for the Heat (3-8).

At Golden State, the Los Angeles Clippers lost their 13th consecutive game as Ricky Pierce's 3-point play with 42 seconds left in overtime gave the Warriors a 127-124 victory.

The Clippers' Poo Richardson, who forced overtime with a 15-footer with 4.3 seconds left in regulation, missed a 3-pointer at the OT buzzer.

The Clippers are approaching an NBA record for season-opening futility. Three teams began by losing their first 15 games, and the expansion Miami Heat lost their first 17 in 1988 before beating the Clippers.

Latrell Sprewell scored 31 points to lead the Warriors, who blew a 21-point first-quarter lead.

In Dallas, Jim Jackson scored 26 points as the Mavericks took a sloppy 84-83 win over Minnesota Timberwolves.

With 7.6 seconds left and Dallas up by a point, Jackson missed two free throws. Minnesota rookie Donyell Marshall grabbed the rebound, dribbled to the front court and missed badly on a 40-footer to end the game.

In Atlanta, Hersey Hawkins scored 22 points as the Charlotte Hornets held off the Hawks for a 90-85 victory.

Alonzo Mourning added 18 points and Dell Curry had 17.

Charlotte led by as many as 16 points in the second period, but had to hang on as the Heat got as close as 86-85 with 15 seconds.

At Washington, Patrick Ewing's jump shot with two minutes remaining sparked a 6-0 run, breaking open a three-point game as the New York Knicks defeated the Bullets 99-91.

Ewing finished with 20 points and a season-high 15 rebounds.

Washington was led by Chris Webber's 21 points, his most as a member of the Bullets. Webber also grabbed the team-high 11 rebounds.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had 27 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots as the Rockets cruised to a 96-81 win over the Denver Nuggets to stop three-game losing streak.

In Portland, Karl Malone had 30 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists and the Utah Jazz used a 15-4 run to open the fourth quarter to take control of the game and beat the Trail Blazers 105-94. The Jazz have won five straight.

BEIJING (R) — Japan has the most to gain if Chinese swimmers at last month's Asian Games are banned for drug use, the Beijing youth daily said Wednesday.

If the Asian Games' successes of Lu Bin, Xiong Guoming and others come into trouble, more than 10 swimming gold medals would fall into the hands of the Japanese, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile China's Olympic Committee confirmed Wednesday it had been formally notified that 11 Chinese athletes had been tested positive during the Asian Games in Hiroshima.

The two swimmers won four gold medals each. The newspaper also named male swimmers Hu Bin and Xue Wei, who won a gold medal apiece.

The Beijing youth daily said world women's 400 metres freestyle champion Yang Aihua, banned by the International Swimming Federation (FINA) for two years after testing positive for excessive levels of digoxin, had appealed to FINA.

arguing that three tests by Japanese officials on her urine sample had produced five different results.

The Chinese sports daily, quoting sources at the Chinese Olympic Committee, said an official of China's Asian Games delegation had returned to Tokyo to review analyses of urine samples of the 11 Chinese athletes.

"The Chinese Olympic Committee was shocked and felt sorry and has instructed the associations concerned to investigate the matter immediately," the newspaper said.

Chinese officials said they would pursue all appeals to ensure China's athletes were accorded process but that China would accept the committee's findings.

According to the OCA rules, all the parties involved have no right to make any revelation before the OCA makes an official decision, the paper quoted one source as saying.

The athletes were identified by the newspaper as:

### Swimming

**Men**  
Hu Bin — gold in 50 metres freestyle

Xiong Guoming — four golds in 200 metres freestyle, 100 metres butterfly

200 metres individual medley, 400 metres individual medley, 4x400 metres relay and a silver in 4x100 metres relay.

Xue Wei — gold in 200 metres butterfly

Fu Yong — bronze in 400 metres individual medley

### Women

Lu Bin — four golds in 50 metres freestyle, 200 metres freestyle, 400 metres individual medley, 4x100 metres relay and a silver in 100 metres butterfly

Zhou Guanbin — gold in 400 metres freestyle and a silver in 200 metres freestyle.

Yang Aihua — silver in 400 metres freestyle

### Athletics

Han Qing — gold in women's 400 metres hurdles

### Canoeing

Zhang Lei — two golds in men's 500 and 1,000 metres Canadian singles

Qin Suoren — silver in men's 1,000 metres Canadian pairs

### Cycling

Wang Yan — gold in women's sprint

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## Marriott

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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**17** Come and take  
Christmas souvenir pictures  
with Santa in the lobby,  
for you and your children  
from 4 to 6 p.m. as of  
December 17th - 24th.

From The  
Pastry Shop  
Order your Bûche de Noël,  
Christmas Cookies,  
and Christmas Desserts.  
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from 3Kg to 10Kg. for JD 8.000/Kg.  
& extra JD 1.000  
delivery fees on the total.

**18** Daily Carols  
Choir singing  
daily carols  
from 5 to 6 p.m.  
in the lobby as of  
December 18th - 24th.

Catch the Christmas spirit  
with candle lights and hot drinks.  
A Delicious  
Christmas Eve Dinner  
will be served plated  
at AL WALIMA and AL MANSAF  
for JD 15.000++

**25** Traditional  
Continental  
& Middle Eastern  
Salad Bar Market  
on our  
Christmas Day  
Lunch Buffet Menu is  
served at AL WALIMA  
and AL MANSAF  
for JD 13.500++  
JD 7.000 inclusive

**31** Celebrate  
New Year's Eve  
and have a  
Dinner Buffet  
at AL MANSAF  
Restaurant  
for JD 30.000++

**19** Children's Day  
Children's Day  
activities  
and fun  
for the children  
with  
Santa Claus  
and his gifts

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Santa Claus  
and his gifts

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## Jordan to brief donors, seek to advance debt relief efforts

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has called a meeting with a consultative group of donor countries to familiarise them with the Kingdom's budgetary plans and sound out prospects for assistance during fiscal 1995, officials and diplomats said Wednesday.

They said the meeting, which was set for Sunday, will not take place on Monday so that Finance Minister Sami Gammoh can participate, was expected to review Jordan's economic performance for 1994 and the Kingdom's targets for 1995 as outlined in the fiscal budget presented to Parliament.

The JD 1.674 billion budget with a deficit of JD 50 million expected to be debated on the floor of the Lower House of Parliament soon. The budget focuses more on allocating funds for much-needed development projects seen as essential to meet the needs of some of the outlying areas and make the investment climate in Jordan more attractive to foreign and local investors.

The meeting, called by Minister of Planning Hisham Khaitib, would also aim at advancing Jordan's efforts to alleviate its foreign debt burden through write-off and rescheduling.

Most of the European countries, the United States and Japan are members of the consultative group which works under the umbrella of the World Bank. Ambassadors of the countries and the delegate of the European Commission in Amman would attend the meeting.

No details of specific targets of assistance that Jordan seeks from the donor community were available. The consultative group, meeting in Paris under the aegis of the World Bank early this year, pledged \$380 million to help the Kingdom to address its deficit in the balance of payments in 1994.

Part of the amount was expected to cover Jordan's needs for 1995.

The actual shortfall for the year 1994 in Jordan's balance of payments is expected to be around JD 140 million. It was also not immediately known whether any of the donors

who pledged the \$380 million for this year had not fulfilled their commitment.

The Arabic-language daily *Al Rai* reported that Jordan would also be launching an effort to reschedule \$850 million of its foreign debts during the meeting. No official or diplomat would confirm the amount mentioned in the report, but said it was only expected that Jordan would be addressing all the issues that are involved in its efforts to correct its economy and reduce its debt burden.

"We expect to hear the details of Jordan's economic performance and budgetary problems at Monday's meeting," said a senior Western diplomat, noting that the findings of a recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) assessment of the Kingdom's economy would also be reviewed at the gathering.

"The meeting should be very interesting," noted a senior World Bank official. "Jordan has outperformed some of the objectives set in the economic restructuring programme and it was a safe expectation that the Kingdom might not need external assistance to help its balance of payments by the year 1997."

Most diplomats that the *Jordan Times* talked to said

their governments were sympathetic to Jordan's needs, particularly that the Kingdom "took the brave decision to sign a peace treaty with Israel" — as one of them put it. But none of them could predict with any degree of accuracy the amount of aid that Jordan could expect from their countries.

"In general, Europe considers Jordan as a special case and looks favourably upon any Jordanian request for help despite the international economic adjustments and pressing need for aid to be channelled elsewhere," said another European diplomat.

However, added the diplomat, "there may not be a uniform approach in response to the request. Every country has its own priority and methods of extending help."

According to a senior World Bank official, Jordan has outperformed some of the objectives set in the economic restructuring programme and it was a safe expectation that the Kingdom might not need external assistance to help its balance of payments by the year 1997.



FORCED EVICTION: Police move in to evict of a row of crumpling Victorian houses in an anti-motorway camp of demonstrators staging a rooftop protest in Leytonstone, Britain. Millions of demonstrators remained on the roof

Jordan seeking \$25b from U.S. in 10 years

(Continued from page 1)

mat said: "We have a general sense of what Jordan's primary concerns are."

According to the authoritative Washington-based *Defense News* weekly, U.S. government officials have begun putting together an aid package to make good on President Clinton's promise to assist Jordan's military.

Options have been drafted in the Department of Defence that would provide for a long-term military aid package ranging from \$250 million to \$2.5 billion, according to American officials quoted by *Defense News*.

The package is expected to be submitted to the U.S. Congress early next year.

The administration is reviewing several options, including requesting a special supplemental bill for the 1995 budget to cover up to \$1 billion in military aid for Jordan or waiting until 1996 to incorporate the Jordanian programme into the 1996 foreign aid budget, said the *Defense News* report.

Jordan, which has the longest border with Israel, has been working since the Gulf war on a major plan to turn its 98,000-strong armed forces into a modern, well-trained and well-equipped force.

The military, which has

been on a tight budget for the last six years, has not made major weapon

purchases since the mid-1980s. Two major deals for fighter jets, British Tornados and French Mirage 2000s, have had to be cancelled due to limited resources.

Washington, which

punished Jordan for its stand in the Gulf war by halting economic and military aid, resumed military assistance, including joint exercises and training programmes last year. The United States has also released to Jordan support equipment, including fatigues and transport vehicles.

Although the country's economic and security needs are great, both Jordanian and American officials have indicated that it may be difficult for the Kingdom to get such a package with the constraints on the U.S. economy and especially with the new Republican-led Congress, some of whose leaders may not be too keen to finance the Middle East peace process.

This reorganisation includes reducing the number of personnel needed in some support units and quickly working to transform one of the army's two armoured divisions into a light infantry unit capable of moving quickly and effectively to deter aggression.

The military, which has

been on a tight budget for the last six years, has not made major weapon

### Donors give \$125 to PNA

(Continued from page 1)

ign Minister Jan Egeland, who chaired the meeting, said the donors were confident they could find another \$23 million to completely write off the Palestinians' debt.

Donors here also appealed to Israel to help the Palestinians by easing restrictions

on workers and goods crossing the borders that have been imposed because of attacks on Israelis.

World Bank officials estimate that 20,000 Palestinians now cross the border daily to work in Israel, compared with 70,000 last year. Over half Gaza's workforce is out of work.

### PLO: Israel must quit W. Bank before vote

(Continued from page 1)

said Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Irdeineh.

Mr. Rabin and his military

commanders have complained that Palestinian police in the PNA-ruled areas

failed to prevent attacks on Israelis by militants. Therefore, the safety of over 120,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank could not be guaranteed after an Israeli troop withdrawal, Mr. Rabin said.

The trial balloon was floated by Ori Orr, chairman of parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee,

just days before Israel and

the Palestinians were to begin

negotiations on troop redeployment and Palestinian

general elections.

Searching for alternatives, Mr. Rabin last week proposed that the army redeploy only during a three-day election period and on Tuesday

raised the possibility that troops don't leave their positions at all during the ballot-

ing.

Palestinian officials have

rejected both proposals as

violations of the autonomy

accord. "Dismantling small

settlements is no substitute

for troop redeployment."

But a spokesman for

Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser

Arafat rejected the idea as a

violation of the autonomy

accord. "Dismantling small

settlements is no substitute

for troop redeployment."

Rifai does not find success in

locating suitable premises for

an embassy in Tel Aviv, then

Jordan would opt to operate

a mission out of one of the

hotels in Tel Aviv pending

the selection of a suitable

site.

In any case, the Jordanian

flag will be raised in Tel Aviv

and the Israeli flag will go up

in Amman Dec. 10 in line

with the provisions of the

peace treaty.

According to officials, if

the delegation headed by Mr.

Abu Rub

identified as Wahid Abu

Rub, an unemployed 24-

year-old from the occupied

West Bank town of Qabatiya

whose brother is a jailed

member of the Islamic Re-

sistance Movement, Hamas.

Village residents said Mr.

Abu Rub was shot in the legs

a few years ago on suspicion

of being an Israeli informant

and the axe attack was

apparently an attempt to

clear his name following a wave of recent arrests.

The northern West Bank

has been subject to repeated

police sweeps over the past

two months, with over 400

activists from Hamas arrested

following a wave of bloody

attacks.

Afula was the sight of one

of the bloodiest operations

claimed by Hamas, when a

suicide bomber on a bus in

April killed eight Israelis.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli soldiers armed with phones to call home

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Young conscripts to the Israeli army who find it tough leaving their families are increasingly carrying portable telephones. Growing numbers of the teenagers have been turning up with the machines to stay in touch with anxious parents worried their offspring might have been caught in the latest extremist attack. Officers at first turned a blind eye, but as more and more telephones were brought in they appealed to the chief of staff, the *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper reported Wednesday. However, the military top brass has yet to take a decision, the daily said. "Until now we were used to seeing soldiers armed with guns or pistols, but not telephones," one senior officer admitted to the *Yediot*.

### U.N. troops to leave Kismayu in December

MOGADISHU (AFP) — U.N. Indian troops will withdraw in December from the southern Somali port of Kismayu, spokesman Zubair Chatta said Wednesday. The 1,000 Indian troops will return home aboard ships chartered by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) which will dock at the port, Major Chatta said. He refused to give a precise date for their departure for security reasons, but predicted it would be orderly. Other sources said the withdrawal would take place by the end of the week. Representatives of the international charity Medecins Sans Frontier (Doctors Without Borders) who quit Kismayu on Nov. 23 after one of their workers was briefly kidnapped, predicted that rival clans would probably fight for the city's port and airport once the Indians left. The pullout of the Indian troops from Kismayu is part of a wholesale withdrawal of 15,000 U.N. troops from Somalia to be completed by March 31.

### Replacement judge named in Geagea trial

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government on Wednesday named a judge to replace an ill colleague on the country's highest court, allowing the trial of former Christian warlord Samir Geagea in two murder cases to resume. A government decree said Hussein Al Zein replaced Wajih Al Awiyeh on the five-man judicial council handling both cases. The 42-year-old Geagea is the first militia chief of the 1975-90 civil war to face trial. Head of the once-powerful Christian Forces militia, Mr. Geagea faces possible death sentences for a February church bombing that killed 11 worshippers north of Beirut and the 1990 murder of Christian rival Dani Chamoun and his family. Chief Judge Philip Kharallah adjourned last Friday's session in the bombing case shortly after it began, saying Mr. Alawiyeh was ill, could not bear the stress of the long hours at the trial and would be replaced. Mr. Kharallah has yet to set a date for continuing the trial in the church blast case but sessions of the Chamoun case resume on Friday.

### U.N. envoys visit flood-stricken Iranian area

TEHRAN (AFP) — Several U.N. envoys arrived in southwestern Iran on Wednesday to assess widespread damage caused by massive floods in the region, the official Islamic Republic News Agency IRNA said. Officials from the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the U.N. Food and Agriculture

Organisation (FAO) were among those who arrived in the city of Ahvaz in Khuzestan province. Massive floods struck 54 cities and towns as well as 700 villages in eight Iranian provinces in the past few days, killing 13 people.

### Tom Jones big hit in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (AP) — Tom Jones kicked off a Gulf tour with a sell-out concert in Abu Dhabi, his first performance in the region, Tuesday night. More than 3,500 fans, some of them who were not even born when the Welsh singer began his career in the early 60s, turned out for the two-hour beachfront show. Jones, backed by an 11-piece British band, belted out his classic like "Delilah," "Green, Green Grass of Home" and "Thunderball" as well as some of his newer hits. True to form the 50-some star gyrated energetically throughout the show, with ecstatic women fans throwing panties onto the stage. He was scheduled to play in Dubai Wednesday and Thursday nights.

### Israeli gay wins landmark appeal

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's supreme court issued a landmark ruling Wednesday that the state airline El Al must grant homosexual employees the same rights as heterosexuals. The court upheld an appeal by El Al steward Yonatan Danielowitz, who fought a six-year legal battle against the company. He demanded that his live-in male lover of 15 years be given two free tickets each year in line with the wives of married staff. Lawyers said the ruling would set a precedent for numerous other cases in which Israeli homosexuals are demanding equal rights. Adir Steiner, who lived with a soldier killed on active service, told Israel Radio on Wednesday that he would press ahead with his demands to obtain all the "the benefits accorded to the soldiers' widows."

### Fewer AIDS cases reported in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of new carriers of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) fell in Israel to 135 over the first 11 months of 1994, compared with 174 for 1993,